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EAST KENT EDITION

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Promise of extra PCSOs slammed as 'policing on the cheap'

By **Marijke Cox**
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TRUMPETED plans by the new Police and Crime Commissioner to boost Kent's frontline police force by 100 posts have been described as a "smoke screen" by critics.

PCC Ann Barnes unveiled proposals this week to bring in 60 police community supporter officers (PCSOs), 20 police constables and 18 custody attendants in June.

While her statement was greeted with optimism, some questioned why so many were PCSO posts and condemned the word "boost".

Kent Police must reduce its headcount by 500 officers and 1,000 civilian staff over four years to save £50m. This latest plan would see the reductions drop to 480 and 962 respectively.

And many question the real value

of PCSOs, who while in uniform do not have the same levels of power as regular officers. Critics consider them 'policing on the cheap'.

Medway councillor and the defeated Tory candidate in the PCC race, Craig Mackinlay, called it a smoke screen.

He said: "It's trying to be sold as an increase, when it isn't. This isn't treating the public with the respect they deserve. If it does stop the loss of some frontline policing in Kent then that is a good thing."

"Frankly, I think this is just trimming the edges."

Mr Mackinlay said, had he been successful in his campaign for the PCC post, he would have looked to divert money towards police constable recruits, particularly in the wake of the Government cut in the starting salary to £19,000.

He added: "As much as I like PCSOs,

Continued on page 2



FAITH IN THE WOODS

SONGBIRD: Pop star Paloma Faith to play gig at Bedgebury Pinetum – **SEE INSIDE**

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: One court jester

HERE'S a position that doesn't come around very often in this day and age; court jester.

Popular tourist attraction Leeds Castle is advertising to hire a fool to entertain the crowds during the Easter and summer holidays.

Skills needed are juggling and joke-telling. **PAGE 3**

BUDGET

KCC warns of more job cuts

CHIEFS at Kent County Council are facing up to having to make more staff redundant after it confirmed it would have to find an additional £34m in the wake of Government cuts.

It means the axe could fall on as many as 150 jobs later this year.

Full details inside. **PAGE 5**

HISTORY

Remembering tragedy at sea

THIS week marks the anniversary of a maritime tragedy off the Kent coast which cost the lives of nearly 300 people.

It was 140 years ago when a boat was the victim of a hit and run during a storm which claimed the lives of men, women and children. Amazing full story inside. **PAGE 21**

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EMPLOYMENT

It's no joke – Leeds Castle advertise for court jester to entertain visitors

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THERE are not many jobs – unlikely to be any in fact – where you'd be paid to lark around.

That is until now...

For bosses at one of Kent's most prestigious attractions are on the hunt for a happy-go-lucky person; someone who can tell jokes, turn cartwheels, juggle and generally make a fool of themselves to get a giggle out of visitors.

Yes, the jester is back. And so determined are staff at Leeds Castle to find the perfect candidate, they are asking that only happy people apply.

The former royal palace near Maidstone is looking to reintroduce the historic tradition of the Tudor kings by appointing their own joker to entertain the masses this summer.

Applicants must be able to chat with visitors, teach basic circus skills and perform tricks. If they also have an interest in history and can speak foreign languages, even better.

Chief executive of Leeds Castle, Victoria Wallace, said: "The principle of appointing a jester is just as it was in Henry VIII's time. When the royal court visited the castle, there were about as many people in their retinue as we see visiting on a sunny weekend.

"Having someone whose job it is to make visitors laugh can't be a bad thing."

Candidates will be put through their paces in the interview process, with all applicants invited to perform throughout half term to visitors, who will then choose their favourite.



HAVING A LAUGH: Candidates for the jester job will be invited to perform at half-term in February

A PROFESSIONAL FOOL

A jester, or fool as they were also known, was a historical person employed to entertain a ruler in medieval times.

Many courts throughout English history employed these professional fools, who performed music, tricks, riddles and acrobatics.

But when Charles I was overthrown in the civil war in the 17th century the jester was never reinstated and became extinct.

The jester will then receive his or her official appointment in time for the Easter holidays.

A spokesman for Leeds Castle said the successful 'fool' will be paid £8.75 per hour and will be required to work 30 hours a week between mid-March and mid-September.

The job advert states: "We are looking for a jester who is proficient at juggling, tumbling or other gymnastic skills. You will need to be funny with a comprehensive repertoire of jokes and patter, rather than just one 'act', and most importantly be able to judge an audience and deliver entertainment at an appropriate level."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ No end to cold snap

WEATHER forecasters are predicting no immediate end to the icy blast which brought ice and snow throughout much of this week.

Temperatures fell below zero as the icy blast swept across the county, prompting appeals to ensure elderly relatives and neighbours were checked up on to ensure they were coping with the conditions.

For the latest weather news for the county, log on to our website - www.kentnews.co.uk.

➔ Motorists pay the price

POLICE say a total of 211 motorists were arrested as part of its Christmas anti-drink and drug driving campaign.

All failed roadside breath tests after being stopped between December 1 and January 1. In total, officers carried out 682 breath tests throughout the month.

In one case, a Thanet man, 47, was found more than five times over the legal limit. He was banned from driving for more than two years.

➔ Paloma Faith tour date

CRITICALLY acclaimed chart star Paloma Faith has confirmed she will be performing a one-off open air show in the county this summer.

The star will perform at Bedgebury Pinetum on June 21 as part of the Forestry Commission's popular Forest Live concert series. A day later, American superstars Blondie perform.

The singer is currently promoting her latest album, *Fall to Grace*. It has been nominated in the Best Album category in next month's Brit Awards.

Tickets are on sale now.



Picture: ADY KERRY

IN THE SADDLE: Sir Chris was joined by hundreds of fans at Gravesend's Cyclopark this week

SPORT

Testing time suits Olympic star

SIX-times Olympic gold medallist Sir Chris Hoy heaped praise on a leading Kent cycle venue when he paid a special visit on Wednesday.

The cycling legend applauded Gravesend's Cyclopark as he tested out his new

range of bikes with hundreds of fans getting the chance to cycle alongside their hero.

Sir Chris said: "This is a great facility and the closed road circuit was perfect for our testing with plenty of twists and turns to get a feel for the bikes' handling."

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COUNCIL

KCC dips into reserves as funding cuts put pressure on 150 more jobs

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MORE jobs look set to be axed at County Hall as council chiefs are forced to find an additional £34 million in the wake of central government cuts.

It pushes the amount of savings needed at Kent County Council for 2013/2014 up to £94m, instead of the anticipated £60m gap set out in autumn's draft plan.

Leader Paul Carter said there could be as many as 150 extra job cuts later this year as he unveiled the budget proposals on Wednesday.

Three years ago, KCC set out plans to save £340m over four years, which included some 1,500 posts being scrapped. This is now closer to 1,600.

Cllr Carter warned there could be more still to come, but said the council was working hard year-on-year to protect frontline services.

Pressed on whether services would remain unscathed with less staff and the subsequent additional pressures on the remaining workforce, he stressed that "innovative" measures were being taken.

"The jobs will come out of back office staff and middle management," he said.

Cllr Carter said money kept in reserves as a fall-back was also being dipped into to help fill the spending gap. The draft budget had detailed plans to use £6m of this, but he said an



SAVINGS: From left: Cllr Paul Carter has announced up to 150 job cuts at the council while Cllr John Simmonds admitted times are tight. Labour's Cllr Leslie Christie has slammed the proposals

additional £3m is now needed, admitting it was a concern.

But despite the huge savings needed, Cllr Carter has confirmed a council tax freeze.

"We are doing all we can to freeze council tax for the third successive year, despite massive reductions in government grant allocation to fund local government services," he said.

"Year-on-year, we are showing how innovation and integrity – brought together by elected councillors and experienced staff – can give us ways to look after the bills and protect services.

"So we need to deal with our own circumstances with intelligence and common sense. In the spirit of that attitude, we have already worked hard to find more than £250m of savings over three years.

"I'm proud of what we have achieved and pleased we can continue to keep the burden on residents as low as possible."

The additional £34m savings revealed in the proposed

budget was due to a cut in grants from central Government amounting to 9.5 per cent – £13m short of the reduction estimated by KCC.

Finance cabinet member John Simmonds said there could be even more changes made by the Government. He stressed that some £250m had already been saved of the £340m savings needed over the four years and that they were on target. But he admitted times were tough.

"We are having to do a lot of things differently and this has meant staff have had to work a lot harder," he said.

Adult social care is being hit hard with a five per cent cut, amounting to £18m, and reductions in staffing costs will amount to £11m. Children's services also look set to see a big chunk of its funding cut.

Medway Council will publish its budget proposals at the beginning of February. It will go to cabinet on February 12 and to full council later that month.

ANGER AT MORE CUTS

Labour county councillor Leslie Christie called the job cuts "dreadful".

"These are probably 150 low paid workers, probably part time," he said.

"I can't believe KCC can say it's cutting 1,600 jobs but not affecting frontline services. Yes, they're not cutting social workers, but they're cutting their support staff which means social workers will have to take on extra work, putting them under more pressure, impacting frontline services.

"I would've started with talking to the Government to try and convince them there needed to be a more sensible way of tackling this rather than just slash and burn.

"I would consult with the public on whether or not they would prefer to accept a small increase in the precept to help maintain important services, such as those for the elderly and children.

"I think Paul Carter announcing that KCC is freezing council tax for a third year is a very populist thing to say.

"If people would like to see a 5p a week increase and keep important services then they should be able to say so."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Roads cash boost

COUNTY Hall chiefs have confirmed there will be a further £6.2 million of Government money invested into Kent's roads.

The cash – £4m for the forthcoming financial year and £2.2m for 2014/15 – was announced by transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin as part of a nationwide road funding package.

KCC's Bryan Sweetland said: "This is welcome funding that dovetails with the new approach to maintaining our roads."

➔ Funding up for grabs

BUSINESSES are being urged to bid for Government cash loans as a new round of the Regional Growth Fund opened this week.

Business minister and Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon encouraged firms to apply for some of the £350 million on offer while on a visit to Hythe.

Mr Fallon said: "Jobs are being created, money is being invested and the fund is making a difference. This additional round will help keep the momentum going."

➔ Leadership changes

MIDKENT College is on the hunt for a new principal following changes to the structure of the organisation's senior leadership.

Stephen Grix will relinquish the position he has held since 2005 at the end of the current academic year, but will continue as chief executive on a part-time basis. The two roles will merge in 2015.

For details, see our recruitment section.

Children's services show first steps towards improvement

VULNERABLE children are being better cared for following a major overhaul of children's safeguarding services by Kent County Council, according to Ofsted inspectors.

County Hall chiefs said there had been a "massive effort" by staff and members and significant investment – amounting to around £20 million – to turn things around following a damning Ofsted report in 2010.

It had found KCC's child protection "inadequate" and in the worst cases, children had been left at significant risk of harm. Some 2,700 vulnerable children were found to be without a social worker.

But the latest report following an unannounced inspection at the end of last year deemed safeguarding services "adequate", showing a great improvement. During the inspection, a random sample of around 200 children found that none had been 'left at risk of, or suffering from, significant harm'.

The report said the service was judged "adequate", meaning it was meeting the minimum requirements.

Ofsted said: "Senior leaders within the council, supported by strong and well-informed political leadership, have delivered a significantly improved response at the point of referral to children's social care services.

"In consequence, children who are at risk of harm are protected by effective initial screening and prompt subsequent action."

But improvements are still needed, with weaknesses in planning for children in need, as well as getting the right help for those not at risk but needing extra help.

They also said it was important to make sure social workers do not stop help for children too early and that managers need to get better at checking the quality of work done by staff and give them regular feedback. Ofsted highlighted the high rate of children going back into the care system and needing repeat child protection plans.

Cabinet member for specialist children's services, Jenny Whittle, said while the report recognised the work done to raise standards, KCC was only "part of the way along the road".



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CELEBRITY

The village hall play that inspired an Oscar-nominated leading lady

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

WATCHING her mother on stage in an amateur production in a small village hall in Kent proved to be one of the major inspirations for Oscar-nominated actress Naomi Watts.

The 44-year-old Hollywood star – up for an Academy Award for her role in Asian tsunami film *The Impossible* – was born and raised in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks.

Growing up, she went to the local school and even took part in productions staged by the amateur dramatic society.

And she still has followers in the village – who say they are delighted at the success which has seen her take major roles in films including Peter Jackson's *King Kong*, and David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*. She is also set to star as Princess Diana in a forthcoming bio-pic.

Kate Britton is currently president of the Shoreham Players – a group to which the actress' mother belonged and which organised her stage debut.

TALENT: Naomi Watts stars in *The Impossible*

She said: "My son, David, went to school at the village primary with Naomi. Her mother, Myfanwy, or Miv as she was always known, played Eliza Doolittle in a production of *Pygmalion* the players put on at Shoreham Village Hall. By all accounts she was extremely good.

"Apparently that was one of the inspirations for Naomi wanting to become an actress.

"Then there was an old



fashioned music hall style event the players staged in the village hall and Naomi was in the children's chorus – that would have been in the 1970s."

Naomi, then aged five, was fascinated by her mother's costumes and change of voice. Throughout the show she waved at her mother, but got no response apart from a brief wave.

The Shoreham Players got back in touch with the family when celebrating a

major landmark.

Mrs Britton said: "We celebrated our 80th anniversary in 2004. We had a big party and decided to try and get in touch with Naomi, who was just starting to make it big.

"It was Miv who got back to us, saying she had very happy memories of being part of the players.

"There's a feeling of pride in the village at what Naomi has achieved and it is fantastic news that she has been nominated for an Oscar."

The Academy Awards will be presented on February 24.

FROM KENT TO HOLLYWOOD

Naomi was born on September 28, 1967. Her parents divorced when the future star was just four years old and mum Myfanwy looked after her and brother Ben on her own. But the couple had a reconciliation before the tragic death of Naomi's father, Peter Watts, in 1976 of a suspected drug overdose.

The remaining family members relocated to Angelsey before leaving for Australia when Naomi was 14-years-old. She started appearing in Australian TV shows before moving to the USA and getting her first film roles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Teen 'made up' attack

A TEENAGER has been fined for wasting police time after falsely claiming he had been robbed at knifepoint – even self-harming to make the claim more realistic.

More than 10 officers were called out in the early hours of Tuesday morning to Baxendale Court in Ashford. But officers became suspicious when the 19-year-old "victim" gave inconsistent accounts of what had happened. He then admitted he had made it up and was fined £80.

➔ Oast house in blaze

FIRE crews tackled a blaze in a converted oast house in the village of Chilham on Tuesday night, which left one man needing hospital treatment for inhaling smoke.

The fire broke out in a two-storey converted oast house in Canterbury Road and took over an hour to extinguish. It is believed the fire started in a chimney and then spread to the main building. The oast house had been converted into a private property.

➔ Nightmare on the A2

MOTORISTS faced huge delays after a car transporter overturned on the A2 near Gravesend – and spilled its load over the carriageway.

Tailbacks stretched back four miles and the road was partially closed for hours as recovery of the vehicles took place.

Two people were injured in the incident. The lorry driver has serious, but not life threatening, injuries and a motorist suffered minor injuries.

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News

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CRIME

Cleaner jailed for burglary

A WINDOW cleaner who burgled a woman's home in Laddingford in broad daylight has been jailed for two years and 10 months.

Josh Allen, 21, of Loose Road, Maidstone, had knocked on a door but when there was no answer entered the house. He was discovered in the kitchen by the shocked homeowner. He fled but was identified and arrested.

FIRE

Dishwashers spark blazes

FAULTY dishwashers have been blamed for two fires in the space of 24 hours.

Fire crews were called to a kitchen fire in Sundridge, near Sevenoaks, on Wednesday morning - and another house in Tunbridge Wells the same day.

Both blazes are believed to have been sparked by electrical faults with dishwashers.

No-one was hurt in either incident.

JUSTICE

MP's appeal for a law change to ensure criminals get the sentence they deserve

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A TORY backbencher is calling for a change in the law which would allow prosecution teams more powers to challenge "unduly lenient" sentences imposed on criminals.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson argues that while defence teams can automatically appeal any sentence given to the offender that they feel has been too tough, the prosecution is not granted the same privilege.

He says the current appeals process "inherently favours" the rights of the offender over the victim.

Only in the most serious of cases, those heard in crown court, can the prosecution team appeal what they believe is a too lenient sentence.

This power does not stretch to some sexual offences or serious assault cases, public order matters, burglary or dangerous driving. It means a person convicted of a serious assault could receive little more than a slap on the wrist, but the prosecution is unable to appeal for a harsher sentence.

Mr Johnson, who is a lawyer, will present a 10-minute rule bill in the

CASE STUDY

As an example, Gareth Johnson highlighted the case of a 17-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome, a type of autism, who was viciously beaten by three thugs.

He was kicked, repeatedly punched, beaten with a tennis racket, scratched with sandpaper and his head stamped on. He was thrown down a hill, pelted with dog mess and forced to drink alcohol until he passed out.

His attackers pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and common assault.

But a judge, despite describing the attack as "grotesque", handed out community service orders and three-month curfews as 'an intensive alternative to custody'.

A large number of requests were made for an appeal of what were believed to be "unduly lenient" sentences.

But as the current system only applies to certain offences, and these particular offences did not fall within the scheme, they could not be referred to the Court of Appeal for review.



TAKING ACTION: MP Gareth Johnson

House of Commons on Tuesday, highlighting the need to balance the system.

"Under current UK criminal procedure, defence teams can appeal any sentence they feel has been too tough," he said. "This ability is automatic against sentences given at the magistrates' court or youth court or through leave of a judge against crown court sentences.

"Conversely the prosecution cannot appeal at all against unduly lenient sen-

tences where they are imposed in the magistrates' court or youth court and only for a handful of offences when sentencing takes place in the crown court.

"Currently, it is only the most serious of cases that can be appealed by the prosecution. This includes rape, murder and serious robbery.

"In some cases the sentence can be substantially changed on appeal, further supporting the argument that this

right should be available to the prosecution in far more cases."

He added: "It also allows courts to be as lenient as they like without redress, yet subject to appeal if they are robust. My bill is designed to balance the scales and ensure sentencing can be challenged for both victims and offenders."

The 10-minute rule bill is one of the ways a backbench MP can introduce legislation.

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DOMESTIC ABUSE

'More should have been done' to prevent murder of abused wife

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE police handling of the case which led to the brutal murder of beauty salon owner Natalie Esack, 35, is to be the subject of a review.

Her estranged husband, Ivan Esack, 38, was on Monday sentenced to a life term behind bars – to serve a minimum of 28 years – after he was found guilty of her murder.

He went to her salon last April in Ashford town centre and stabbed her in front of her colleagues. She died from her injuries.

Her death came after a prolonged period of abuse and death threats.

Following the sentencing, a woman's group said action should have been taken earlier by police and the handling of the case is to be the subject of a multi-agency review, which will be made available in late February.

Anne Lyttle, of the Rising Sun domestic violence charity in Canterbury, said suggestions of a previous strangling attempt should have meant Mrs Esack was classified as at a higher risk.

Following a death after domestic abuse, authorities are obliged to undergo a 'domestic homicide review' in order to ensure lessons can be learned by all agencies involved.

Sentencing Esack, Judge Charles Byers at Maidstone Crown Court said he had shown no remorse for his actions.

He said: "You had previously made her life a misery, subjecting her to repeated physical and verbal abuse. And yet she never offered you any malice, not of any sort. You are a controlling man and the only way you could continue to control her life was to take it from her."

Esack's trial at Maidstone Crown Court lasted four weeks.

Police say that killer Esack had a long history of abuse and violence towards his wife.

The stocky former police officer, who was attempting to forge a career as a football agent, often menaced the life of the woman, who was just five feet one inch tall and weighed just over eight stone. At different times he threatened to kill her, her family, her dog and finally himself.

On one occasion he strangled her until she became unconscious – inside the hairdressing salon in which she finally met her terrible death.

But the victimised woman persistently refused to bring charges against her violent husband.

Det Ch Insp Paul Fotheringham was the officer



THREATENING: Ivan Esack had previously strangled Natalie

in charge of the murder investigation, code-named Operation Goblet.

He said: "Natalie was a caring individual who didn't want to do anything to him, even though she was suffering domestic abuse and violence."

Violent and remorseless Esack served as a Kent Police officer for seven years and his career was described as "completely unremarkable".

He left the force and set up as a football agent, claiming to know high-profile figures such as Rio Ferdinand and Sir Alex Ferguson. He did not have a single player on his books.

Esack and Natalie married in 2006 and two years later set up Esack Hair Design on Ashford High Street.

But the marriage deteriorated and in October 2011 Natalie went to Ashford police station and complained of abusive text messages and calls – including threats to shoot her and her father.

A month later, Esack voluntarily surrendered his legal shotgun and licence to police.

In February 2012, two months before her

FAMILY'S GRIEF

Natalie's family issued a statement after the court hearing: "We, as a family, are all totally devastated at the loss. Natalie was the head of our small family. We all looked up to and respected her."

"The most precious person has been ripped from our lives and we would ask anyone who may be suffering like Natalie to please seek help before it is too late."

death, Natalie called police saying Esack was threatening to kill himself, but after a psychiatric assessment, he was allowed home.

On March 13, Justin Khadaroo – Natalie's new partner – dialled 999 and officers overheard her in the background saying "You aren't allowed to come in – you tried to kill me".

Police attended, but she did not want to press charges or give a statement. However, as they investigated further, they learnt of the strangulation attempt.

At one point, Esack told Natalie during a phone call that she was "walking dead".

DAY OF THE STABBING

■ On April 30, 2012, Natalie Esack and her colleague and friend Chelsea Ford had travelled to work together.

■ Esack, meanwhile, called the salon and was told Natalie did not have an appointment until 10am. At 9.22am he went to Sainsbury's and bought a knife, as recorded by CCTV.

■ Driving into the town centre and parking at County Square, Esack then walked to the salon, approaching from the rear via the path around the town church in order, say detectives, to confirm Natalie was present.

■ After entering, he passed Ms Ford and went up to Natalie, stabbing her at least nine, possibly 11, times. The attack lasted around 20 seconds and it is believed the first stab was to the throat, to silence her screams.

■ Esack continued to stab his victim after she collapsed on the floor, such was the force of the thrusts that the knife blade was bent and the tip broken off.

■ Ms Ford ran for help and paramedics arrived at 9.55am but were unable to save Natalie, who died from her injuries.

■ Esack was arrested at his home, he had drunk three cans of special brew and half a bottle of whisky.

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CAMPAIGN

Agony of OAP selling her beloved family home to fund an ever-increasing bill for elderly care



By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LAST week KoS joined forces with Kent County Council in a bid to launch the Cap Our Care Costs campaign and pressure the Government into introducing fairer care funding for our elderly.

Our aim is to draw attention to the plight of elderly people who are being left with no other option but to sell their homes to pay for care, and are urging KoS readers to sign a Government e-petition, launched by KCC leader Paul Carter, calling for the Coalition to implement the Dilnot recommendations by 2015 (see box-off).

Just days after launching the campaign, the heartbreaking extent of the problem emerged, with readers coming forward to share their experiences in struggling to pay for care for their loved ones.

Geoff Snooks, from Swanley, is one of those to tell us his story.

WHAT ARE THE DILNOT REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS?

THE Dilnot Commission, chaired by economist Andrew Dilnot, drew up recommendations 18 months ago aimed at putting an end to what many believe is an unfair funding system.

The two key proposals are:

- A funding cap at £35,000, after which the Government would pay for care. This means an individual would pay for their own care – possibly funded by an insurance policy taken out when they are still working – and once they have contributed £35,000 would be eligible for full state support.

- An increase in the means-tested support threshold from £23,250 to £100,000. Currently, anyone with assets worth more

than £23,250 has to bear the costs of their own care. Last year, more than 24,500 people in the UK had to sell their homes to pay care bills.

Prime Minister David Cameron and Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg pledged support to the Dilnot Report in the mid-term review, but have come under fire for the lack of detail in how they propose to take the reforms forward.

Currently, elderly people are being left with no option but to sell their homes and use all their savings to pay for care.

If the e-petition reaches 100,000 signatures, the Government will be forced to debate the matter in Parliament.

His 80-year-old mother suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis and an impacted hip joint. She needs constant support and was admitted to a care home in Kent two years ago, costing more than £53,000 a year.

The only option was to sell her beloved home. "My mother and father lived a very simple life; my father was a factory worker and it was very difficult for them to save to buy the house," said Mr Snooks.

"They never had a car; my father had a push bike. We never went on holiday.

"The biggest hurt for my mother and father would be that the house they bought and paid for would be sold to pay for care and they would not be able to leave anything for their family."

Mr Snooks said the money his mother got for her house will run out in around four years.

"We couldn't get a place for my mother in any of the local authority-run care homes as there

were no vacancies so she is in a private care home, which means we can't get any assistance from the council.

"At first, I had to finance the fees myself, but I couldn't afford to be spending that kind of money.

"We always knew we would have to sell my mother's house and it sold quickly, but we had to accept about £20,000 less for it.

"It went for £214,000 after costs were deducted. This is being used to pay for her care, but this will only last four or so years and then we'll have to approach the local authority for help.

"Some of the costs may be picked up when her funds diminish below the current funding level of £23,500, but there will still be a big shortage.

"And it also means she may have to move to another care home from the place she now calls home. Considerable care and effort was taken in finding my mother both the right kind of care and a home suitable for her needs and the care she receives is superb."

Mr Snooks has signed the Make Dilnot Happen by 2015 e-petition and urges others to do the same.

"Paul Carter has my full support on this issue and I wish him every success in persuading Parliament to carefully and responsibly, consider this issue. I also urge KoS readers to sign the online petition."

■ To do so go to <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43330>

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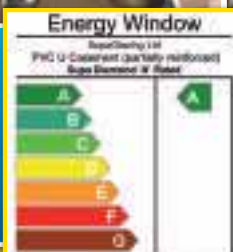
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CINEMA

Box office smash Les Miserables catapults county onto the big screen around the globe

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE big screen adaptation of Les Misérables shot straight to the top of the UK box office chart last weekend – banking more than £8 million.

It then secured three Golden Globe awards – with many now tipping it to be one of the major winners at next month's Academy Awards.

But as stars Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway picked up their acting awards, they will owe a little of their success to the Historic Dockyard in Chatham – which welcomed the cast last year for filming.

In addition, an appeal for extras proved so successful, the casting team had to turn hundreds away.

All of which means there is a very Kentish feel to many of the crowd scenes of revolutionary France.

The crew were at the dockyard for 11 days – the longest stint at any single location in the UK for the movie.

And it seems the county will be a familiar sight in movie theatres across the world over the coming years, with no let up in the number of major stu-



ON LOCATION: The cast and crew of Les Misérables spent 11 days filming at Chatham Historic Dockyard

dios looking to use the county as a backdrop for their films.

A spokesman from the Kent Film Office – which promotes the county as a possible location to the movie industry – said: "Kent is a great place to film as it has an incredible variety of landscapes, including 350 miles of coastline with cliffs, sand and shingle.

"It also has different architecture styles, ranging from Neolithic longbarrows at Kit's Coty to ultra-modern

public buildings like the Turner Contemporary.

"For Les Misérables we assisted the location manager to look for various sites back in 2011 and they chose to shoot in Chatham as the dockyard was able to provide a location as the factory, court room and also various streets."

Les Misérables is the latest in a line of feature films to shoot at the dockyard, which has also provided loca-

tions for both of Guy Richie's Sherlock Holmes films which starred Jude Law and Robert Downey Jr, as well as fantasy film The Golden Compass and Amazing Grace.

The dockyard is certainly no stranger to cameras. It has recently been the centre of TV series' Coast, Countryfile, Call the Midwife and Great British Railway Journeys.

Elsewhere, the likes of Harry Potter have been shot in Dartford and

MONEY SPINNERS

According to national arts promoters Creative England, feature films alone contributed more than £1 billion to the UK economy in 2011, while Kent's economy was enhanced to the tune of £2 million in the last financial year.

Location manager on Les Misérables, Camilla Stephenson, added: "People in each area couldn't have been more helpful and enthusiastic and made a difficult job a real pleasure. Only a tiny portion of our film was shot in France but there are some fantastic locations in England that worked perfectly as early 19th century France."

Brad Pitt was in the county only last month filming scenes for his movie World War Z in Thanet.

The Kent Film Office confirmed there will be even more of the county on show later this year:

"Unfortunately we can't disclose any information about productions that have filmed in Kent and have not yet been released. However, there are several big feature films coming out this year which chose to shoot here."

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ANNIVERSARY

Musical tribute to honour popular busking pair who died in city pond

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HUNDREDS of buskers are expected to take to the streets of Canterbury next weekend to mark the tragic deaths of two popular young musicians.

Father-of-one Daniel Lloyd, 25, known to his friends as Taihg, and 17-year-old Hugo Wenn, were found drowned last year. The popular duo had been drinking and taking the then-legal high methoxetamine.

Now, to mark 12 months since their bodies were found in Reed Pond, at the rear of Tennyson Avenue on the outskirts of the city, friends and musicians will gather in Canterbury to play the music the pair loved.

They will meet near Lloyds Bank on the High Street next Sunday, January 27 – a popular location where Mr Lloyd, from Wincheap, used to perform.

A tribute album, made by friends and fellow musicians, will also be on sale during the day-long event.

Entitled One Love, One Heart, One Soul, proceeds will be split between Mr Lloyd's daughter Kaia and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, as nominated by the family of Mr Wenn, who lived in Barham.

LAW CHANGED TO COMBAT LEGAL HIGHS

LEGAL highs came under the microscope once more following the deaths of the buskers and other cases around the country.

Last year, it was controversially decided home secretary Theresa May could instantly ban a substance for a year if it was deemed to be a serious danger.

And in November, the Government made synthetic cannabinoids, like methoxetamine, often sold as 'mexxy', illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The Home Office said at the time: "The UK is leading the way in cracking down on legal highs by outlawing not just individual drugs, but whole families of related substances that have the potential to cause harm."

The move came after it was revealed in a report by the International Centre for Drug Policy that 43 Brits had died in 2010, compared with five the previous year, from using the so-called legal highs.

Drug laboratories in the Far East work full time to alter their deadly recreational drugs slightly to bypass new legislation.

With that in mind, and as drugs like mexxy became illegal, the report worryingly stated: "The rapidity with which these new substances have emerged appears to be at an increasing rate. In the past, the market for new psychoactive substances to explore evolved steadily over much longer periods of time."

"It is now difficult to gauge what will be the next 'big thing' to capture the attention of the regular recreational drug user."



MISSED:
Daniel Lloyd

CRIME

Shops' concern over drink culture

RETAILERS near the cathedral in Canterbury say they are growing increasingly concerned about the amount of vandalism taking place.

Last weekend, police were called when a drunken reveller smashed the Canterbury Church Shop window in Orange Street, causing

some £200 worth of damage.

Bishop Damien Mead, chairman of the shop's board of directors, said: "Staff know that clearing the doorway of empty bottles, food packaging and sometimes even vomit, is now part of the routine after weekend revelries."

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE or ACCIDENT CLAIM?

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The Daily Telegraph



Have your say and help us to plan for the future of the Kent Downs

In the table below please tick three features of the Kent Downs that you feel make it special.

Features of Kent Downs natural beauty

Please tick the top three features that you feel make it special

- ☐ Chalk Downland (wild flower grassland)
- ☐ Woodland
- ☐ Landform and geology, cliffs and coast
- ☐ Ancient lanes and paths
- ☐ Orchards/cobnut platts
- ☐ River valleys
- ☐ Hedgerows
- ☐ Historic settlements and buildings
- ☐ Mixed farmland
- ☐ Dry valleys
- ☐ Historic parklands

Elements valued about the Kent Downs

Please tick the top three elements that you most value about the area

- ☐ Scenery and views
- ☐ Wildlife
- ☐ Peace and quiet
- ☐ Opportunities for outdoor recreation
- ☐ Villages and village life
- ☐ Historic buildings and features
- ☐ Dark skies
- ☐ Amenities (eg public houses, Post Office)
- ☐ Available local produce
- ☐ Visitor attractions (eg gardens)
- ☐ Public rights of way network
- ☐ Locally distinct highways

Please state any others that are important to you:

Letting you know about the Kent Downs

Please tick one answer for each

Do you think our printed publications are

Too few ☐ Just right ☐ Too many ☐

Do you think our electronic communications are

Too few ☐ Just right ☐ Too many ☐

Do you think we should use other electronic communications such as Facebook and Twitter?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you think The Orchid is a good way to let you know about the Kent Downs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please let us know what you think are the most important priorities for action in the Kent Downs AONB.

Priorities for action

Please tick your three important priorities for action in the Kent Downs AONB

- ☐ Prevention of illegal or damaging activities (fly-tipping, abandoned cars, etc)
- ☐ Conserving wildlife
- ☐ Conserving and enhancing views and scenic beauty
- ☐ Conserving tranquillity – traffic, development, visitor pressure etc (please state which)
- ☐ Preventing inappropriate conversion or loss of historic buildings
- ☐ Management of equine land use
- ☐ Availability of information about access to the AONB countryside
- ☐ More information on features of AONB landscape (old field boundaries, coppice woodland, etc)
- ☐ More organised events, festivals etc
- ☐ Research and response to climate change

Action needed to improve enjoyment of the AONB

Please tick your top three actions

- ☐ Encourage farmers to adopt environmentally-sensitive farming techniques
- ☐ Improve sustainable transport, bus links, cycle routes, walkers' shelters, etc
- ☐ Ensure peace and quiet – traffic management, control of illegal off-road use in the countryside, etc
- ☐ Greater emphasis on development control
- ☐ Getting out and about – removal of stiles, better marking of access routes
- ☐ Better information on wildlife in the AONB
- ☐ More information on where to go in the AONB (woodland, gardens, historic sites, community orchards, etc)
- ☐ Improve or increase the number of visitor facilities (eg car parking, public toilets) at key sites
- ☐ More information on what local produce is produced in the AONB and where to get it
- ☐ Highways management that respects the sensitivity of the AONB landscape
- ☐ Control of light pollution to protect dark night skies

Please add any priorities or actions that are important to you:

Your name and address (prize draw)

Send us your comments through our website www.kentdowns.org.uk or email us at mail@kentdowns.org.uk or post this form to us using the freepost address **Kent Downs AONB Unit, Freepost MA629, 2nd Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1BR**

We are offering a half case of Kent Downs wine or an iPod shuffle to the first two entries out of the hat on 3rd February, 2013. If you would like to be entered for the draw please put your name and address in the space provided. You will be eligible if you provide feedback through the website, email or post.



The information you provide will be processed by the Kent Downs AONB Unit to assist in the provision of services.

If you would like to take part in further consultation on the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan Review please tick this box ☐ Your information will not be disclosed to a third party.

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What do you love about the Downs?

Now's the time to voice your views on this outstandingly beautiful area



Hollingbourne

What do you think makes the Kent Downs a truly special landscape?

Is it the dramatic cliffs, ancient woodlands, the delicate chalk grassland, old churches and vibrant communities dotted throughout the landscape, or its tranquillity and remoteness? You tell us.

The Kent Downs offer much value to those who visit, work and live within it. With a status on par with National Parks, the Kent Downs is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – a landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them for the future.

Yet to balance the competing needs, wishes and wants for this landscape and to fulfil its role – to conserve and enhance natural beauty – we need to plan for the future.

Helpfully, the Government has made management planning in AONBs a compulsory process and we at the Kent Downs AONB Unit are working with all local authorities to review the current management plan.

We need your help. We invite you to fill in the short questionnaire



Elmsted

opposite to tell us what features of the AONB you value the most. How should we be caring for and looking after it now and for future generations?

Your views, along with other information and evidence that we collect, will feed into the Kent Downs Management Plan 2014-2019. In early summer, you will have

the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. Once all comments are on board, the final plan will go through a formal process of 'adoption' with the relevant local authorities and published in early 2014.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and helping us to continue looking after this beautiful area.



Chilham

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HISTORY

140th anniversary of voyage to Tasmania that ended in tragic hit-and-run sinking

By Martin Hedges

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TUESDAY, January 22, marks the tragic anniversary of one of the greatest peacetime losses of life in the English Channel.

On that night, 140 years ago, nearly 300 emigrants were drowned in a shipwreck.

However, this wasn't a conventional drama on the high seas. This was a hit-and-run that took place within sight of Dungeness lighthouse.

Their ship was the Northfleet, a well-maintained sailing clipper, setting sail on a three-month chartered voyage to Tasmania in 1873.

The passengers were young – some in their teens. Many were Britain's navvies; workers whose labour built railways, docks and canals. They had been recruited from around the UK to build a railway line on the island.

The weather since leaving dock at Gravesend had been frustrating and the journey constantly delayed.

A strengthening gale from the west with squally cold showers prompted the captain to anchor a couple of miles from shore in the lee of the bleak triangle of shingle that is Dungeness, to await favourable winds.

They felt safe there for a number of reasons. Foremost was the lighthouse itself; recently upgraded, it was the world's first to be powered by electricity and thus the most powerful light anywhere.

The Northfleet was not alone in the shallow bay. Many other vessels, from fishing boats to big merchant ships were anchored. The nearest was just 600 yards away.

The passengers were bedding down in the converted hold at around 10.30pm when they heard warning whistles blowing and shouting from on deck. The next thing was the impact.

A Spanish iron-hulled steamer called the Murillo, on its way from Dover to Lisbon, but off course by miles, had rammed the Northfleet, splintering her wooden side below the waterline.

Very soon the deck of the Northfleet was overcrowded with nearly 400 men, women and children, jostling, shouting and doubtless praying.

While the recently-married captain, Edward Knowles, who had brought his young wife aboard for their honeymoon, was trying to coordinate a calm escape, with women and children first, some of the passengers elbowed them out the way to take their place on one of just two lifeboats.

Seeing the labourers threaten to prevent his wife's boat escaping, the captain drew his pistol.

His first shot missed, but the second hit a man – though he fell into the lifeboat and survived.

Meanwhile, a cabin boy had been firing off blue signal rockets to get help from any other ship.

None came, thinking the rockets were merely a call for a pilot ship. Eventually, three pilot boats did arrive, only to see the Northfleet sink, just 30 minutes after the collision.

Survivors recalled how soon the screams of those swept into the sea ceased.

And what of the Spanish ship?

The captain of the Murillo – almost certainly realising that the Northfleet was badly holed below the waterline – had simply ordered his crew to sail off into the night.

The next morning, as the pilot boats entered Dover harbour with the few people they had saved, it was the beginning of national anger, but in those days there was no extradition.

After numerous enquiries and inquests the Murillo was named repeatedly.

The captain and watch crew on duty were briefly arrested and held in Spain, but never tried or returned to England for any legal action here.

The ship avoided its normal route for a time to keep it out of territorial waters.

However, although it flew the Spanish flag, it was built in Glasgow and when its engines needed servicing or repair, which could only be done economically in the UK, the owners capitulated.

Sent into English waters some eight months after the tragedy, it was 'arrested' in Dover and then sold and renamed.

The proceeds were used to pay off the insurance claims on the Northfleet.

Some justice, at least, for the 297 who lost their lives.

Of the 74 passenger survivors, only two of the 52 children on board were saved and one of the 42 women, aside from the captain's wife. The captain went down with his ship.

The only shred of good news was the one woman and child rescued were part of the only family saved.

John and Lucy Sturgeon and their baby Harriet, just seven months old at the time, all lived.

One of Harriet's descendants reported that though the Sturgeons lost all their belongings and spent time in a sailors' home, they finally settled in Rotherham, where they opened a tripe factory and became "quite prosperous".



DISASTER: The sailing clipper Northfleet had set sail from Gravesend, but sank off Dungeness coast



CULPRIT: Spanish steamer Murillo fled the scene

NORTHFLEET'S ROLL-CALL

On-board ship	379
Crew members	37
Men	248
Women	42
Children	52
Number of dead	297



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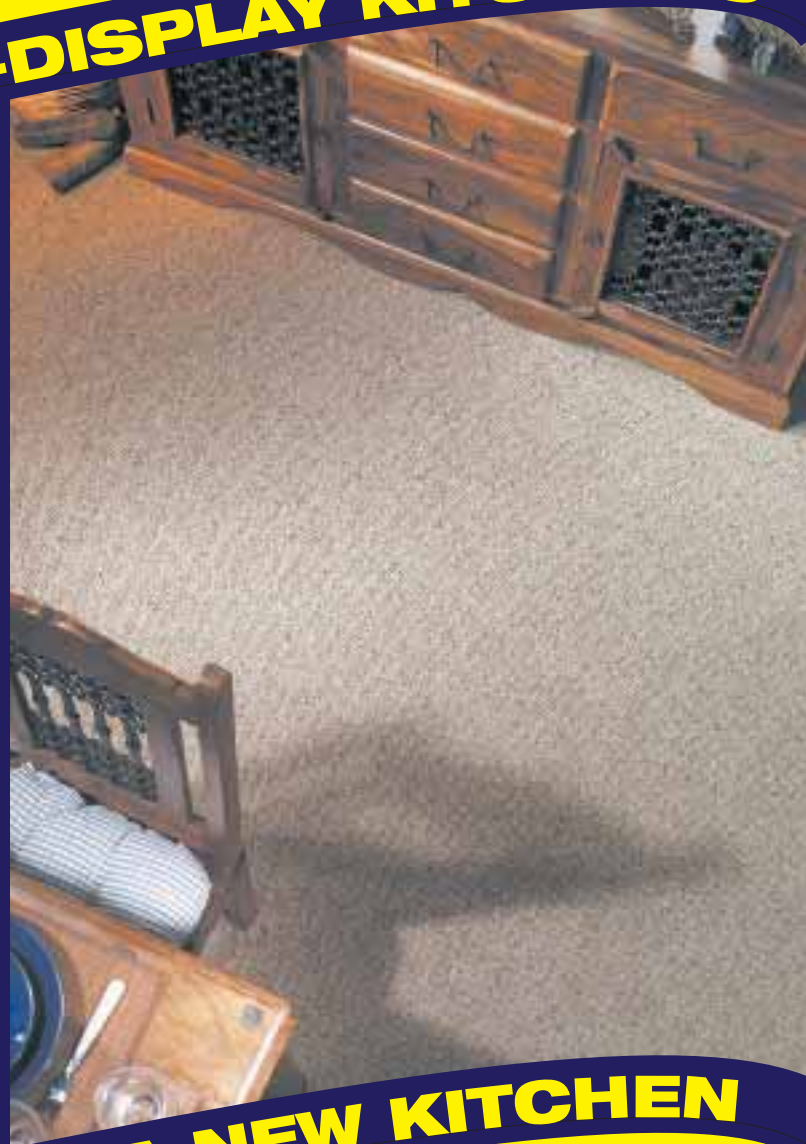
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REGENERATION

Coming this spring: A thrilling finale to the 13-year saga of town cinema?

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT has stood empty for nearly 13 years, an eyesore at the heart of one of the county's most picturesque town centres.

But despite hopes last year it would finally be demolished, the final curtain appears not yet ready to fall on the long-running saga of the Tunbridge Wells cinema site.

Developers this week confirmed they were still keen to push ahead with plans, but that economic concerns are applying the brakes.

In response to a letter from a resident published on a Facebook campaign site this week, Benjamin Du Boulay, director of the Carlyle Group, the private equity group which owns the site along with developers Bellhouse Joseph, suggested hopes of the bulldozers moving in this year could be optimistic.

He said: "While we have been working hard towards our goal over the last 16 months, we have also been clear from the outset any work would not commence until we had the commitments from future tenants required to make the scheme viable."

He confirmed a supermarket is "very interested" in being the scheme's anchor tenant and that once that deal was secured, along with other key tenants, work could push ahead.

But the long-suffering town folk have heard this all before.

Last April, the owners said they were in "advanced talks" with a supermarket and hotel chain. Nearly 10 months later, it would appear any imminent deal is not currently on the table.

It was in 2000, when the Odeon pulled out of the former three-screen building at the top of Mount Pleasant Road, perched opposite the Town Hall.

The cinema chain opted instead to concentrate on a multiplex on the outskirts of the town and the town centre site was subsequently sold.

A covenant was put on the site preventing any other cinema chain from moving in. But as it changed hands and plans for hotels and shops were unveiled, the economic collapse in the years which followed its closure scuppered plans.

Instead the building decayed in the full glare of the politicians peering from their windows across the busy street.

Campaigners described it as the town's biggest



...BUT THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS REMAIN

A key problem for the cinema site which blocks simple development is that beneath the building runs the railway tunnel which serves the nearby mainline train station.

Any significant work will require careful consideration of the structure of the tunnel, meaning any temporary closure would see rail services to the town being stopped and resulting in a significant compensation payment.

It has proved a major thorn in the side of developers and put many off progressing with bids on the site.

Since the showing of its final film in October 2000, it has stood empty, with vandals and age causing ruin to its once impressive surroundings.

Ironically, it closed while still making money. Since then, it has stood as an eyesore, enraging politicians and residents alike.

'grot spot' and it has held the title ever since.

It is particularly damaging for the town as the site includes a row of shops at the top of Mount Pleasant – all of which are boarded up.

In addition, a recurring problem the town has faced is how to send shoppers and visitors from the busier top end of the town – which includes the likes of the Royal Victoria Place shopping complex – to the lower end, which includes the Pantiles. The cinema site sits on the crossroads which divides the town, and it is seen as essential that the prime site unites the two halves.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has been quick to point out it does not own the site, but campaigners say it should deliver on previous threats to issue a compulsory purchase order (CPO) on the site if the current owners do nothing. But with the council's purse strings so tight, any such move would be high risk.

According to council leader David Jukes, to use public money to intervene would add a staggering £1,000 to each household's council tax bill across the borough.

The problems are intensified given the unique structural issues which impact on the site (see box off).

A recent poll conducted by the local Liberal Democrats found some 92 per cent of people think the Tory-led council should have executed a CPO to kick-start regeneration on the site.

David Neve, leader of the Lib Dems on the local council, said: "The town is in this position because successive Tory administrations have refused to take action while our town has suffered at the hands of developers."

Cllr Jukes, the Conservative leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, hit back.

He said: "I am as frustrated as everyone else by the lack of progress on the cinema site and have made my disappointment clear at regular meetings with the owners. What the Lib Dem survey fails to mention is the potential costs associated with a CPO for the cinema site."

"The cost to our tax payers would be in the region of £10-15 million before the future reuse of the site is taken into consideration which will be in the region of £40-50m. This could see a coun-

cil tax increase of over £1,000 per household across the borough, per annum.

"We are working to ensure, and I will not hold back, that the owners meet their obligations. We will not stop until the owners come up with a solution to demolish the site and present a planning application for a suitable replacement."

■ What do you think of the cinema site saga? Share your views by writing to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk with your opinion.



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PETS

Explosive relationship has happy ending for retiring Afghan hound

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN ARMY explosives expert has adopted a veteran bomb search dog after they bonded in traumatic circumstances in war-torn Afghanistan.

Corporal Andy Hawkett, from Gillingham, who serves with 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers) part of 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD), first met Jake whilst on operational tour in Afghanistan in 2010.

Jake, a 12-year-old springer spaniel, with 14 operational tours under his collar, has now settled in with his former handler's family to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

The dog, specially trained to search out improvised explosive devices (IEDs), had also served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq.

It was while on his last tour in Helmand Province he was introduced to his future new owner, Cpl Hawkett.

Following a particularly catastrophic IED incident, witnessed by them both, the bond between the two strengthened in the final months they had to serve before returning home.

When Cpl Hawkett realised Jake was due to



HOME FROM HOME: The Hawkett's – Michelle, Joshua, Courtney and Andy – are proud to own Jake

retire after 10 years' service he asked if he could adopt him.

Cpl Hawkett said "There is a standard process to follow which involves writing to the Defence Animal Rehabilitation Centre.

"As a family we had to detail all the responsibilities we were willing to undertake surrounding Jake's future care and prove that we would take on animal medical cover for him."

Jake's rehabilitation from an Army dog to



family pet took a whole 12 months to achieve including quarantine, health checks and civilian training, but now he is a much-loved member of the Hawkett family.

Cpl Hawkett added: "When I knew Jake was up for retirement I wanted to replicate the sense of trust and loyalty he had shown to me and my colleagues in Afghanistan. We are honoured to have the opportunity to give him a good home for him to see out his retirement."

CHARITY

Keira pins her hopes on you giving an hour to Marie Curie Cancer

A CANCER charity is appealing for people across the county to donate an hour of their time to help support its major annual fundraising push.

Marie Curie Cancer Care wants to recruit a team to hand out its famous daffodil pin in return for donations as part of its Great Daffodil Appeal in March.

The money raised will help Marie Curie nurses to provide more free care to local people with a terminal illness in their own homes.

This year's campaign has been supported by Hollywood actress Keira Knightley and actor Stephen Mangan.

Fiona Dodd, community fundraiser, for Marie Curie Cancer Care, in Kent, said:

"We need 200 people from the county to help. Collecting is a great experience and I hope everyone will help us make this year's Great Daffodil Appeal a success."

■ To volunteer visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.



STAR TURN: Keira Knightley

Have your say on Kent's

local flood risk

Management Strategy

This strategy sets out a countywide plan for managing the risks of local flooding (surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses). It aims to coordinate the work of management authorities and improve our understanding to reduce flood risks in Kent.

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HISTORY

Footprint of town's past is unveiled

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A REMARKABLE collection of ancient relics unearthed at the excavation of a Roman villa, will go on public display next month.

It forms the final exhibition of the series *A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500* – a community project organised by Canterbury Christ Church University, the Folkestone People's History Centre and Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

The project is researching and recording the rich archaeological heritage and early history of the seaside town, with a view to enriching those locally with a thirst for knowledge when it comes to the history of their area.

It has focused around the findings at the villa on the East Cliff in 2010 and 2011. The site was initially found in 1924.

The exhibition will also look more widely at the history of Folkestone from 1000 BC to 1200 AD. It takes place in the Sassoon Room, above Folkestone library, running from February 8-26.

Dr Lesley Hardy said: "As well as telling the story of Folkestone up to 1200 AD, the exhibition will be a chance to have a close up look at



EXPOSED: Clockwise from left: The Roman Villa; footprint on a roof tile; the intaglio; silver and bronze coins

some of the most interesting discoveries from the 2010 and 2011 excavations on the East Cliff, including a Roman intaglio (engraved gem stone) and painted plaster-

work. My favourite exhibit is a size 11 footprint discovered by our finds team as they washed off the mud from fragments of Roman tile."

The project is funded by the Her-

itage Lottery Fund and Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, with contributions by Folkestone Town Council, Kent Archaeological Society and Shepway District Council.



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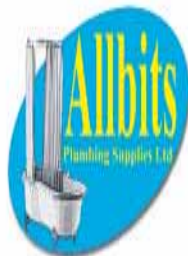
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CHARITY

Drinkers pay the price for disturbing the peace as charity benefits from pub fines

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT'S rare to find a place without the familiar sight of someone sat, head bowed, as they type into their mobile phone.

Or a street where there isn't an army of phone users; devices held to their ears or chatting into hands-free sets for the world to hear.

But in micro-pub The Firkin Ale-house in Folkestone, that's exactly what you'll find – a mobile phone-free atmosphere, where the punters can talk among themselves without interruptions from ringing or sleeping phones.

Owner and landlord Neil King, however, isn't just doing it to bring back some of that old world charm to his watering hole, which he opened in November.

The 38-year-old is using the ban to raise money for charity HFT Kent, formerly the Home Farm Trust, which offers support to people with learning difficulties.

Every time someone's phone rings or they talk on their mobile in the pub, they must donate a pound.

Mr King said: "They don't have



CONVERSATION: Neil King is encouraging drinkers to talk, rather than text

to switch their phones off, they can have them on silent, but if they want to talk on it they have to go outside.

"I came across the idea in a pub in Deal and wanted to use it here to get people back into the art of conversation. There must be no noise from phones in the pub."

Mr King said punters have taken

it well and those who flout the rules have happily handed over the pound.

"They say it's fair enough; it's done with good spirit," he said.

"This is a micro-pub and so if someone is on the phone you can't really get away from it, besides, it's only about seven or eight steps to go outside to take the call.

"I wanted to take things back to basics and I think people like it. It's been going well since I opened and I'm still meeting people every day."

As well as banning mobiles, spirits and alcopops are also off the menu. Instead the pub in Cheriton Place offers a selection of local ales, ciders and wines, with customers getting table service.

This back-to-basics experience is what Mr King hopes will keep people coming back.

With the help of some rule-breaking customers, Mr King has so far raised £50.

Fundraising manager for HFT in the south east, Gill Orman, said the charity was grateful to Mr King for his innovative fundraising scheme.

Basepoint, which offers business workspace in Folkestone, has pledged to match-fund whatever is raised.

"It is because of donations that HFT can continue to support people with learning disabilities in Kent to live the lives they choose," she said.

Mr King added: "We wanted to support something that had an impact on our community. I heard about HFT's great work and wanted to show them our support."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Did you see attack?

POLICE are seeking witnesses to an assault which left a 50-year-old man with cuts, bruises, a chipped tooth, and in need of stitches.

The attack is said to have taken place on January 5 at around 9pm as the man walked along Tram Road, close to the pedestrian railway crossing, in Folkestone.

The victim remembers little of the assault but believes two men attacked him. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

➔ Jail for child sex snaps

A SHEPPEY man who abused a girl and sent indecent images of a child to a man serving a life sentence in prison has been jailed for 10 years.

Gary Rockford, 29, of Sanspareil Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, was arrested after prison officers in Staffordshire seized a mobile phone from a serving prisoner.

It was found to contain indecent images of children that had been sent to the phone by a telephone number traced to Rockford.

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POLITICS

Amid rising tensions, an expert on Falkland Islands explains their real worth to the UK

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN EXPERT on the Falkland Islands says they continue to inject a considerable financial boost to the UK's coffers, as tension surrounding their sovereignty continues to mount.

Professor Jim McAdam, editor of the Falkland Islands Journal, has visited the islands on dozens of occasions and seen them flourish after the war with Argentina in 1982.

Argentina's president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has been sabre rattling in recent months, accusing Britain of a "blatant exercise of 19th century colonialism" and demanded Las Malvinas – as the islands are referred to by Argentina – be handed over.

But Prof McAdam, who will be visiting Kent to deliver a lecture on the islands next month, says the situation is very different to that 30 years ago.

He explained: "The Falklands are now financially independent from Britain – it is no longer a colony. They are virtually a country on their own."

"She is just doing this to stir up po-

COULD WAR ERUPT AGAIN?

Prime Minister David Cameron has already stated he would not hesitate in sending another task force to the islands to defend the 3,100 plus population, adding his Government's resolve is "extremely strong".

Prof McAdam claims Argentina's president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner is using the political row to deflect worries about her floundering economy.

Mr Cameron said the island rulers will be decided by the islanders and another referendum will be held this year.

Last April was the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War, which resulted in 649 Argentinean troops and 258 British service personnel being killed.

The situation is now also complicated further with the discovery of substantial oil and gas reserves in surrounding waters.

litical opinion in Argentina."

The academic will be speaking at the University of Kent in a lecture called The Impact of the Shackleton Report (1976) on the development of the Falkland Islands.

Prof McAdam, of the Queen's University Belfast, spent three years in the Falklands from 1976, establishing an agricultural research unit

and implementing part of the Shackleton Report's recommendations on agriculture.

The professor told this paper: "I am a big fan of the Falklands. Lord Shackleton was sent by Harold Wilson to the Falklands in the 1970s."

"Consider the context: Britain was gradually reducing its interest in the Falklands and there was a lot of inter-



massive infrastructure investment was largely ignored – until war broke out and politicians realised the people wanted to keep the islands.

Following peace, the Labour peer's report was looked at again, and more money did flow in to build roads, a runway and buildings, including a school.

He said: "The enlargement of government, both in its role and capability, is essential."

Farmers were helped and along with oil and gas exploration, fishing zones set up.

Prof McAdam said: "Shackleton's contribution was absolutely immense."

The lecture, organised by Falklands expert Professor Mark Connelly, from the university's school of history, said: "Jim McAdam has been instrumental in helping provide the Falklands with much greater economic stability since the conflict ended and will provide a fascinating insight into why the islanders are so resolute in their determination to remain British."

The free lecture is on Friday, February 8, at 6pm in Grimond Lecture Theatre 2 and is open to all.

Advertiser's Announcement

A chance to win a Year 8 scholarship to King's Rochester

King's Rochester is a very special place. It occupies a majestic site between Rochester's ancient castle and its cathedral overlooking the River Medway but its imposing and ancient exterior belies a warmth rarely found in a school whose traditions go back over 1400 years.

Founded in 604, King's has evolved into an outstanding 21st century school for 3 to 18 year old boys and girls with excellent facilities at all

levels. The School has also just acquired the former Stirling Sports Centre on Maidstone Road which, after a half million pound refurbishment, will provide King's pupils - and the local community who share it - with some of the best sporting facilities in the South

East. Academic standards are high - but King's is a school with a broad ability intake and we recognise that every child here is unique with talents and strengths which may extend far beyond the classroom. Principal, Jeremy Walker is proud that the School's strapline, "A Community that enables individuals to flourish", is central to everything it does.

Now this highly successful school is offering a rare chance for talented pupils to join King's in Year 8 in September 2013 due to the creation of a range of Academic, Sports and Music Scholarships.



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OPINION

Helping overcome alcoholism

In a rare glimpse into alcoholism, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous' public information team – also an ex-alcoholic – reveals stories of those who have been helped by the charity

THESE stories illustrate the miracles that can happen when someone reaches out to AA for help – ex-drunks who are now restored to soundness of mind and a full, sober life in their communities.

AA is Alcoholics Anonymous but it can't afford to be Alcoholics Invisible.

Charlie came to his first AA meeting when he had just turned 72. He had enjoyed growing up in a Kent village and trained to become a chef, which led to a career that was varied and enjoyable.

Married in his 30s to a lovely local girl, they lived happily together and often enjoyed a bottle of wine with their weekend meals. Charlie also had a pint or two at the local with friends when heading home from work. Seven years ago, following the retirement they had both looked forward to, he unexpectedly lost his wife to cancer. So whisky began to fill the void and drown his heartache.

He thought he would get over his loss. He attempted to control his drinking, but he could not fail to see it was becoming daily and excessive.

The harder he tried, the worse it got and more than once he stumbled and fell, causing himself nasty injuries.

He realised his pattern of drinking revealed an abnormal dependency and, by chance, seeing a poster in his doctor's surgery about AA, he made a telephone call. He thus found the solution to his problems – in AA's Twelve Step recovery programme – freely offered. No longer alone, he's now happy and free.

Edith started drinking alcoholically aged 44 when she was a school teacher. To begin with, she only drank now and again and during the school holidays.

At first it didn't affect her work. But over the next three years the drinking became a great deal more frequent after a

promotion which brought her ever greater responsibilities.

Eventually, Edith's drinking brought about frightening physical symptoms, occasional panic attacks and absenteeism. She drank daily and could not function without alcohol.

Finally, she was made redundant but she continued to drink, until her body packed up and she suffered a serious collapse followed by six weeks in a psychiatric hospital.

By good fortune there was a regular Sunday evening meeting of AA in the hospital, where she was introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and found the solution to her drinking.

That was all of 27 years ago and she still likes to attend four meetings a week, doing much to help others who have suffered in the same way.

Jenny was young, pretty, outgoing and successful. So why did she need alcohol as a crutch?

Battling with fear of failure



6699

Over two years a vibrant student became a paranoid depressive due to alcohol

and striving to pass her professional exams, this young woman was doomed.

What started as social drinking at 18 became an obsession by 23. Jenny lost her family, driving licence and job, before finding AA at the age of 24.

In two years, a vibrant student had become a paranoid depressive, but 12 years later Jenny is rehabilitated, thanks to AA. Today, she is married with a child, working full-time and enjoying every minute of it. Life is hectic yet manageable and without a hangover.

These people are like millions of other AA members who are alive and well today.

There are some 40 AA meetings every week in east Kent alone, and more than 4,500 other weekly meetings held throughout the UK.

Call AA's confidential helpline 0845 769 7555 or 01227 455557 or go online to eastkentaa.org for further information about getting help.

KOS COMMENT

A sensible discussion is needed on council tax

NOBODY likes to hear council tax is rising and in recent years most councils have done what they can to implement a freeze to protect hard-working families.

But these households also need services, and if councils can't afford to run them, people could be hit harder than what amounts to around 50p a week.

There are two sides to this; firstly, why should we pay more when we already pay a hefty amount every year? But, on the other hand, should services be cut as authorities try to juggle a tax freeze with spending cuts.

There needs to be a non-political, sensible discussion about how we can recover from this crisis fairly.

The modern day fool

THE jester job at Leeds Castle could possibly be one of the best; get paid to mess around, making people laugh.

Mind you, a lot of workplaces could argue they have a jester; actually employed to do something else but mainly the office "fool". Let's hope they don't start charging for their comedy.

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Marriage not for same sex

TWO weeks ago, Thanet's John Worrow responded to a report he heard that Canon Jim Fry had voiced opposition to what Cllr Worrow calls "equal marriage".

I doubt if Canon Fry used the words equal marriage, but Cllr Worrow uses the phrase three times, presumably referring to same-sex marriage. He inveighs against discrimination, meaning everyone should be able to "marry" the person they love regardless of gender, or political, or religious belief.

But, Cllr Worrow, are they not able already in civil partnership to make a public declaration of faithfulness with access to full legal equality? What can marriage add? Nothing except the complementarity of partners who are un-equal – biologically and psychologically – who make

the vow to be "one man and one woman for life" for the benefit of children and society.

The Prime Minister seems determined to push through legislation re-defining marriage to include same-sex unions, in the process debasing the word and its age-old meaning. And this despite what most see as giving it priority over grave national economic matters, and no mention of it in the election manifesto and what most people think – in spite of misleading quotations of the result of "consultation" and opinion polls.

It is hard to see why, other than they are being pushed along by pressure groups and a disproportionate passion for politically correct "equality".

Dr David Neden, Ramsgate

Referendum clarification

CLLR Terry Mullard's memory is playing tricks on him (letters, last week).

He did not vote in a referendum on joining the Common Market because there was no such referendum.

Edward Heath and the Tories took Britain into the EC on January 1, 1973. Two years later, in 1975, the Labour Party under Harold Wilson held the country's first referendum which asked us if we wanted to stay in or leave the EC: 68 per cent of those who voted decided that we should remain in. I have never regretted being one of them.

A small error but important.

Peter Spearink, Staplehurst

Free us from European rule

BEFORE the European Union (which was only supposed to be for trade) all countries were autonomous. 'Great' Britain pulled itself up after the Second World War and was happy.

Now we pay £123 billion a year to the EU and get nothing but stupid rules which our

insipid government obeys.

There are not many people who want to stay in the EU, but now America has stuck its nose in and says it would not be a wise move to leave the union, will Cameron obey the Obama administration?

All countries should go back to being autonomous.

Perhaps then we will be able to call ourselves 'Great' once more. Not an insignificant island off the coast of France, which is what we will become if we don't demand our rights; rights, which our government gives freely to strangers.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

EU is not a democracy

WELL Catherine Bearder MEP would claim the organisation that has made many of our failed politicians millionaires, is perfectly formed; she has a vested interest (letters, Jan 6).

Try telling that to fishermen only allowed to catch half a

cod in our own waters, or the people fined for leaving their bins inches over a boundary.

Britain once had the reputation of bringing democracy to the world.

The EU is to democracy what Atilla the Hun was to social graces.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Union is intent on taking over

CATHERINE Bearder lives in a world I do not recognise.

In terms the ordinary person in the street can understand, I will tell a few truths about what the EU is responsible for:

It adds several hundreds of pounds to the average family's annual food bills;

Changing the face of our agriculture, especially in Kent, where the fruit orchards and dairy cows have disappeared;

Stopping the government subsidising post offices, forcing so many to close;

There is much more too.

And if we do not put a stop to this madness it will be responsible for the abolition of our national government, for it is the EU's intention to rule every member country completely from Brussels.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

It's no longer about trade

WHAT planet does Catherine Bearder inhabit? About the only thing she got right was that when Britain joined the EU we joined someone else's club, and – as they remind us daily – we are junior members.

Every Prime Minister since Macmillan has lied about the EU, but the biggest liar was Heath who said we were joining a "common market" when he knew they planned to stealthily subsume us in to their federal superstate.

Maybe the EU made sense in 1973 when barriers stifled international trade, but GATT and the WTO have made insular trading blocs like the EU obsolete.

Britain is forced by outdated and draconian rules to trade with sclerotic and dying economies, but when we leave we will once again trade freely wherever we choose.

And Britain's exit from the EU will accelerate the inevitable implosion of this appalling project, so the countries of Europe will once again be sovereign and their people free to govern themselves.

David Waller, Ukipp, Tonbridge and Malling

Is anti-car view all about cash?

READER David Spurling may be relieved to know (letters, last week) I have no "expertise" in any field, but I can read and have the power of reason.

This tells me it is financially rewarding to be anti-car, especially when your paymaster is the government. So we have swarms of 'experts' buzzing around the money pot producing statistics and telling us they are facts. That is not to dismiss totally their findings, but one has to be wary.

Experts said increased CO2 levels will cause global warming, so taxation and anti-car measures were introduced, yet this rise has not happened.

Genuine mistake or lucrative careers for many?

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

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Editorial: Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
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KENT REMEMBERED



Every picture tells a story about life in seaside community

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WHITSTABLE natives, the people not the oysters, can take a look back at yesteryear as artist Alexis Johnson hosts her new exhibition at the Horsebridge Arts Centre.

Entitled the Time Travel Tourist Information Exhibition, Ms Johnson presents a history of the seaside town from the 16th century.

The artist, who has held exhibitions at both the Tate Britain and the V&A Museum, uses local stories to turn back the clock to the days of the prosperous oyster fisheries.

She said: "The initial concept came from a meeting at the Horsebridge Centre where it said that everybody thinks it is a tourist information centre, probably because of where it is positioned.

"Lots of people come in to ask about history; who travel to Whitstable for day trips. They want to know more about what's been happening in the area. So we went from there."

Ms Johnson uses video installations, stories and pictures to take visitors through Swalecliffe's Neolithic age, Whitstable's famous oyster fishing and diving era and the 1950s and 60s seaside boom.

She said: "I have been bowled over by the level of passion that people have to keep the history alive.

"I went into a chip shop in town and they have photos of great grandparents who used to be oyster fishermen up on the walls. They were very



VARIETY: Some of the images which form part of the historic display

proud of their heritage and even took me on a trail of where their family lived.

"I've talked to amazing people; local heroes who are using community spirit to make things happen – a creative alchemy."

The exhibition has been divided into different sections including maritime, festivals, seaside and the Playhouse Theatre, as well as putting together a postcard section where people can add their stories and continue to grow the archive.

Ms Johnson said: "The story that is really coming through is that Whitstable had its boom time with all the oyster fishing. It's really interesting because it was a co-operative effort.

"They bought out Lord Bolingbroke who owned the Whitstable fishing territories. A collective of individual fishermen bought them for a substantial amount of money and there was a boom time for about 70 years after that.

"It was very wealthy and prosperous and had the first passenger railway in Kent. But in the 1970s it started to slump

and the town got a bit shabby. Then the London wealth started to come in, which caused a few tensions; but there was a regeneration of housing and a property boom.

"What's interesting is that a lot of families said they wouldn't give up their houses and passed them on from generation to generation. So there is still that strong sense of co-operative from the oystermen era."

Ms Johnson lives in Conyer, near Faversham, and has been a participatory artist since 2003, using people and miniature movies to express her work.

"There is a lot of video installation. There is archive footage from the Kent archives and people have even given me their own old photographs. There are some lovely images that probably haven't been seen before because they have been dug out of drawers."

The Time Travel Tourist Information Exhibition is open until Sunday, January 27. Call 01227 281174 or visit www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk for more information.

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WARTIME HISTORY

A NAZI flying suicide bomb that could have made a direct hit on Buckingham Palace will go on display in Kent almost 70 years after Hitler intended it to destroy targets across southern England.

The bomb is set to be the main attraction at Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, which is part of the aerodrome at Headcorn and will go on show later this year, writes Nick Ames.

The manned version of the fearsome V1 doodle-bug was developed because the aim of the original rockets was so poor.

Fitted with a pilot cockpit, 175 were built so they could be flown accurately into high-profile British targets at speeds of more than 500mph.

Pilots were trained to fly the aircraft – mostly drawn from the fanatical Nazi SS divisions – but none were ever used.

The piloted missile was pioneered by female Luftwaffe flyer Hanna Reitsch – Hitler's favourite pilot and one of only two women to be awarded the Iron Cross decoration – and SS Obersturmbannführer (equivalent to the army rank of lieutenant colonel) Otto Skorzeny.

A fanatical Nazi who undertook some high-profile missions such as the rescue of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, Skorzeny was behind Leonidas Staffel (squadron), which looked at unconventional attack aircraft.

Reitsch had some success test-flying the new design but on one occasion crashed, although she walked unscathed from the wreckage.

However, none of the 4,796lb rockets with their massive 1,870lb warheads ever saw action – as lack of fuel and a change in the German high command caused the project to be abandoned.

Flying them in combat would also have amounted to a suicide mission, with pilots expected to parachute out at an attack-dive airspeed of 550mph moments before a target was hit – an almost impossible task.

Conservative estimates put the chance of the flyer's survival at less than one in 100.

The Fieseler Fi103R-4 Reichenberg rocket, one of only six left today, was found by the Allies at the end of the Second World War after it was captured on April 23, 1945, at the Danneburg V1 factory by the 5th Armoured Division, US Army.

Initially, it formed part of an exhibition of captured enemy aircraft at Farnborough before military experts decided it should be classed as munition rather than an aircraft and was given to the British army's bomb-disposal unit.

But it was spared from being destroyed



Picture: AUKTIONSHAUS FÜR HISTORIC TECHNIK

Hitler's kamikaze vengeance bomb

A Nazi secret weapon is coming to Kent

because of its curiosity value and stored at the Joint Services Bomb Disposal School at Chattenden, Medway, before being taken to the Territorial Bomb Disposal Unit, Fort Clarence, Rochester, where it was painted black and, more or less, left to rot.

In 1970 volunteers representing Lashenden Museum went to the base to see about acquiring some bombs for a display and spotted the plane.

As it was due to be scrapped they acquired the plane and began to have it restored as part of a £40,000 project. At that time it had rusted badly and the tail section was a wreck.

Restoration work was undertaken by Alexander Kuncze and his team at Auktionshaus Für Historic Technik in

Geisenhausen, Germany. They painstakingly located missing period instruments in working condition and gradually restored the rocket to its 1945 condition.

Trevor Matthews, of the museum, which has now owned the plane for more than 40 years, said: "With a pilot you could aim it at a strategic target, like Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament or capital warships, until the last moment when they were meant to bail out. It was totally kamikaze."

"The war was lost by the time they were being considered as a weapon, but the aim was to use them to demoralise the population."

"Fortunately they were never used."

Just over 9,500 original pilotless V1 rockets – known as Hitler's vengeance (V) weapons –

Suicide aircraft

Pictures below: LASHENDEN AIR WARFARE MUSEUM



TERRIFYING: The aircraft, pictured restored, left, would have been suicide for a pilot to use in action



were launched by Germans from France and The Netherlands to bomb Britain. The first hit Bromley on June 13, 1944.

The other five kamikaze-style doodle-bugs are in museums in France, The Netherlands, Germany, the US and Canada.

Mr Matthews says the museum's doodle-bug – which is minus its warhead, is 28ft long, has a wingspan of 22ft and is fitted with an Argus 109-014 pulse jet engine – cannot be flown.

"It has no undercarriage as the plan was to launch it from beneath the belly of a Heinkel 111 bomber. Also I don't think the Civil Aviation Authority would approve!"

■ For news on when the suicide bomb can be viewed at Lashenden by the public, see www.lashendenairwarfaremuseum.co.uk



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KOS MEDIA

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Gastro cool... I don't know what it means, but I like it

The Old Brewery Tavern in Canterbury was not somewhere I had ever thought about when considering my next dining option. It was more a place to go for a drink and an attempted dance. But after a little research and the promise of a double-Michelin-starred chef's influence behind the menu, it had to be worth a try.

Along the city backstreet from its sister restaurant at Michael Caines's ABode, the tavern offers a stylish dining room and large bar area modern enough in décor to play both restaurant and late-night party venue in turn.

The tables are simply laid out and the specials are on the trendy chalkboard. The main menu is not over-complicated and the dishes promised far more than your average pub grub.

To start, I went for a special. Along came a tian of smoked halibut. The fish was stuffed with prawns and cream cheese served with a salad and pickled carrots. It was delicious.

The cheese and prawns were fresh to taste and complemented the strong halibut flavours. The salad was an after-thought, but the pickled carrots were a nice touch and presented very well. The dish was a perfect size, leaving you neither bloated nor desperate for more.

My guest opted for the chicken and pancetta

RESTAURANT REVIEW



croquettes. Now, croquettes don't always look too appealing on the plate, but their taste made up for it – hot and creamy, they went down well across the table.

For the main course I went for the minted Romney Marsh lamb steak. The menu informs diners that all meat used in the menu is from Brogdale Butchers in Faversham and supplied on a daily basis.

The cut of lamb was spectacular without a hint of dryness. The mint wasn't overbearing and the succulent meat's own juices were

enough without the peppercorn or other sauces on offer.

It was served with roasted tomatoes, grilled field mushrooms, two home-battered onion rings that were tasty if a little greasy and a carriage of chips, which were crunchy and delicious.

My guest stayed on the grill menu and went for the beefburger with chips and coleslaw.

Again the meat was succulent and cooked well with a slight pink in the middle, but the bun was hard and didn't taste as fresh as it might and so was left. The home-made coleslaw was nothing to shout about.

We almost shied away from the dessert due to a lack of space, but, as tipped by the waitress, I ended up with a delicious sticky-toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce and caramel ice-cream.

The staff were friendly and attentive – all you need, really. The bill, including a couple of drinks and slightly excessive 12 per cent service charge, came to a mere £61.40. A very decent price for a very decent meal. The website says the tavern is not a 'gastro pub', instead just 'gastro cool'. I don't know what that means, but I liked it a lot.

Joe Bill

■ **The Old Brewery Tavern, Stour Street, Canterbury CT1 2NR (telephone 01227 766266, web www.michaelcaines.com)**

Green hop beer event is to return this year

THE second Kent Green Hop Beer Fortnight will take place from Friday, September 27, to Friday, October 11.

After the success of the 2012 event, another fortnight will be dedicated to the brewing and tasting of beers made from Kent's very own fresh, green hops.

For 2013 it is expected that more than 20 breweries across the county are going to be producing at least one sample using their own methods and recipes.

For a list of the pubs and events, including the Canterbury Food Festival, taking part and stocking new beers during the fortnight, visit www.kentgreenhopbeer.com.

Wine, cheese and new wisdom by the sea

DO you know your Gorgonzola from your Black Bomber? Or even your Pinot Grigio from your Chardonnay? Well, now you can learn.

Sample the best local and international cheeses as well as a number of delicious wines in an evening designed to tingle your taste buds.

The Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre in Whitstable will be hosting the tasting evening on Friday, February 1. The bar will open at 7.30pm but taste-testing starts at 8pm.

Tickets, priced at £10, are limited in availability, so book early. Phone the box office on 01227 281174 or alternatively visit www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk for details.

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Award Winning

FOOD & DRINK

Kent dining: Where to eat in 2013



Waggon at Hale Chatham

Why here...

The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines, real ales and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Families are always welcome at the Capstone Road pub; in fact, there is a big garden housing its own mini family farm with chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and, of course, the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig. Proprietor Emma Pearson

said: "We do not try to be anything more than we are, a warm and friendly country pub serving real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by a very friendly team." The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes and pockets ranging from simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast. Make sure you book ahead to avoid disappointment. The restaurant serves food from midday through to 9pm every day of the week. Look out for the Australian gourmet evening on Wednesday, January 23,

featuring six courses of Down Under-inspired dishes.

On the menu...

From Thai fishcakes to the famous Waggon Burger – handmade with Angus Scotch beef – there is something for everyone. Look out for the bacon-and-crayfish salad, the homemade steak-and-ale pie and the delicious slow-roasted pork belly.

How to book...

179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, website www.waggonathale.co.uk)

The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image. Located in picturesque Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night. With traditional log-fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone. Out

in the garden there is an enclosed children's play area, while there is also a sunny front patio on which to sit and enjoy a meal or cool drink. There is a wide selection of real ales available at the bar and the pub is renowned for holding real-ale festivals on the village green. Book now for Valentine's Day from February 12-14. You will be welcomed with a glass of sparkling rosé followed by a three-course meal and finished with coffee and sweet nibbles for £30 per head. Performing during the evening of Saturday, February

13, will be Cultured Pearl, a two-piece acoustic group.

On the menu...

The Red Lion offers a good choice of meals from the à la carte menu. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm. Look out for the shin of beef braised in local stout and served with seasonal veg.

How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, website www.theredlion.org)



Jalsha Tandoori Sidcup

Why here...

Wine and dine your loved one at Bexley's most romantic Indian restaurant this Valentine's Day. There is free entertainment, with regular tribute acts including Cher on Tuesday, March 5.

On the menu...

Look out for the delicious medley kebab with lamb, chicken tikka and shish kebab or the popular main course of lamb-chop achari. Open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner.

How to book...

Jalsha Tandoori, 169-171 Station Road, Sidcup DA15 7AA (phone 0208 3000777 or 0208 3002527)



Oriental Buffet Gurkha Palace

Why here...

Head down to where East meets West with a meal at Oriental Buffet in Tonbridge. The venue is ideal for parties and offers guests the chance to feast on superb cuisines including Indian, Chinese, Thai and Nepalese. Quality without compromise is key to the team's success. Bookings are still being taken for Valentine's Day, so be sure to book now! You can also make Mother's

Day special this year at sister restaurant Gurkha Palace.

On the menu...

Look out for the tandoori kukhura – a whole chicken marinated with western Nepal frontier spices cooked in a tandoor. Gurkha Palace's menu is vast and the great food has seen the eatery nominated as best Nepalese restaurant in the country by the Cobra Curry Guide.

How to book...

Phone Oriental Buffet, Tonbridge, on 01732 361666 or Gurkha Palace, Folkestone, on 01303 257700



The Black Pig Staple

Why here...

The Black Pig in Staple is as picturesque a traditional Kentish pub as you could get, with its black beams, white walls and warm atmosphere. The venue is also very traditional when it comes to food and drink, offering delicious home-cooked meals using locally-sourced produce. There is an extensive bar menu as well as daily specials, a set lunch menu and a mouthwatering

selection from the à la carte menu for the evenings.

On the menu...

Look out for the Little Piggies as well as stuffed mushroom bruschetta, smoked salmon and chive pâté. Or try the Whole Hog – pan-seared venison with blueberries and red wine served with Dauphinoise potatoes. There is a big choice of home-made desserts.

How to book...

The Black Pig, Barnsole Road, Staple, Canterbury CT3 1LE – phone to book a table now on 01304 813000



Chives Broome Park

Why here...

Chives at Broome Park is offering a warm alternative to winter with its Australia Day on Saturday, January 26. Guests can enjoy Aussie beers and wines at the bar as well as sports on the TV.

On the menu...

From 2pm grab a snack from the 'barbie out the back' such as prawn skewers and BBQ lamb slices. In the evening, enjoy the 'Aussie Grazing Menu' with canapés, five courses and wines.

How to book...

Broome Park Golf and Country Club, Barham CT4 6QX (phone 01227 832637, email broomepark@chivescaterers.co.uk)

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features@kosmedia.co.uk

Marquis joins the three-rosette elite

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

The Marquis at Alkham has bagged a coveted third AA rosette.

The eatery is one of only 13 in the country to receive the accolade for 2013.

Head chef Charlie Lakin said: "I bounced around like an absolute nutcase for a bit. It's a great achievement. I think every chef in the country knows about the Michelin stars, but the rosette scheme is just as rewarding.

"I was looking at it yesterday and I wasn't aware there were so few three-rosette restaurants in Kent. There is only Apicius, West House and Thackeray's with three rosettes and Chapter One with four. I was quite pleased to say that I am in among that group.

"When you think about the great restaurants like The Sportsman and Read's and people like that, there are more Michelin stars in Kent."

To be awarded rosettes, a restaurant must show a passion for excellence, superb technical skills and intense ambition as well as recognition from well beyond its local area.

Despite the recent success, Charlie, who has been at the restaurant since it opened in 2008, is keeping his feet on the ground. "To be honest, every chef has to be realistic to the capabilities of your team. We are in the middle of a recession and fighting for each customer," he said.

"My goal is to push the business on and keep the restaurant busy and full of happy customers. The guys are doing great and doing the TV work is fine, but as a chef my main priority is custom-



BOUNCING: Head chef Charlie Lakin

ers coming through that door. They are our critics and our judges, they are the people who evaluate how good a restaurant you've got.

"You can have a Michelin star or three rosettes, but if you have an empty restaurant, what's the point of them?"

AA rosettes are awarded by AA hotel and restaurant inspectors with no influence from any other guides. Of all the restaurants across the UK, about 10 per cent are deemed of a standard worthy of one rosette or more.

AA hotel services chief Simon Numphud said: "We are delighted to recognise 13 new establishments with three AA rosettes.

"All have demonstrated a high level of consistency and accuracy in the overall cooking standards that our inspection team have experienced."

■ The Marquis is in Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, near Dover CT15 7DF.

Visit www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk or phone 01304 873410 for details.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE



Theatre Royal Margate
Saturday, February 9pm, at 7.30pm
Box office: 01843 292795

Website: www.theatreroyalmargate.com
Gilbert and Sullivan Abridged: Fast-paced performances from all 14 of the famous playwrights' operettas in one night of parody, wit and, of course, song. Adult tickets £17.



The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Saturday, February 2, at 7.30pm
Box office: 01227 769075

Website: www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian
Terry Alderton Live: Following sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival and live TV slots, stand-up Terry Alderton brings his new show Season 4? to Kent. Tickets £14.



Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Monday to Saturday, February 4-9
Box office: 01892 530613

Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
The Rise and Fall of Little Voice: Starring X Factor's Ray Quinn and Coronation Street's Beverly Callard and introducing Jess Robinson as Little Voice. Tickets £22.50-£29.50.



The Woodville, Gravesend
Friday, January 25, at 7.30pm
Box office: 01474 337 774

Website: www.woodville.co.uk
The Inbetweeners Q&A: Meet and talk to the series writer and director Damon Beesley as well as cast members Simon Bird, Joe Thomas, Blake Harrison and James Buckley. Tickets £10.

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(T&C's below)

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**DANCE** partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**47YR** old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-55 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**LINDA** young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**SINGLE** man, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**5FT** female, brown hair, 39, single man, seeks caring, dedicated guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**JOYCE** 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**FEMALE** seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**NICKY** 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398774**COUNTRY** loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**MARY** 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**FEMALE** early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could be you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**SINGLE** man, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**52YR** old female, single man of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**SUSIE** young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**SANDRA** outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**BLACK** African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**DEBBIE** 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**MARGARET** 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**MARY** 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**RETIRED** teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easygoing, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**MIRANDA** early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking single N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**MICHELLE** petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**SENSUAL** female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**BLACK** beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**48YR** old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**FEMALE** looking for male for friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**HAPPY** young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**DEBBIE** 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**YOUNG** looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**ANNETTE** 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**LYN** 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**LOUISE** loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**PAT** widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTW similar aged nice**HAPPY** go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**PAT** 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**KENTISH** lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**63YR** old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**HAZEL** blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, no drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**BLACK** lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**FOLKESTONE** lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**SUE** 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**WIDOW** 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**SUE** 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**FEMALE** likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**LYNETTE** 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**BLACK** female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**LUCY** kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**LORRAINE** 51 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**49YR** old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**CLAUDIA** curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**MARY** likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**LONELY** Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**LISA** tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**BEVERLEY** 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**47YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**TIM** own car/flat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401351**ALAN** from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**BUILDER** 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**SINGLE** solvent 60yr old male, seeks female companion for days out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401281**SEAMUS** 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279**LOVING** caring Ashford male, 46, likes outdoors, country pubs, cosy nights in, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401233**BLACK** male, 50, 6ft, down to earth, easygoing, seeks female, 38-55 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401135**PAUL** 52, businessman, own home, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401127**DENNIS** 64, retired, solvent, 6ft 4ins, 16st, widower, seeks friendly, attractive female for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401095**STEVE** 64, young at heart, ex-marine, likes meals out, seeking female with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401063**JO** bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**SANDRA** 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTW male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**SUSIE** from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**MARY** likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**LONELY** Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**LISA** tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**BEVERLEY** 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**47YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. 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blue eyes, 48, slim-medium build, likes travel, theatre, cinema, music, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**MARGATE** gent 70's, easygoing, tactile, seeking company of lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400995**PHIL** 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**PROFESSIONAL** male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**SLIM** bi male, smooth, seeks male, 50 plus for flexible daytime fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394012**51YR** old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399857**PLEASANT** single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**DEREK** 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**SALVATORE** 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**JAMIE** tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**DAVID** 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**RAY** 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**LONELY** male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**FUN** fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400371**GAY** male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025

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Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**STRAIGHT** male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707*GUY'S TEXT FOR FUN. SEND NTHCL** followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)**MATURE** lady, experienced in life seeks inexperienced lady for informative chats! Text ARCHT 206299 to 66888**YOUNG** girl 21, blonde, curvy, available for chats, text night and day. Loves older men. Text ARCHT 206083 to 66888**ASIAN** lady, beautiful and respectful, hoping a strong minded man of any age replies. Text ARCHT 205760 to 66888**ENGLISH** rose, blue eyed blonde, wants discreet chats with asian men. Text ARCHT 206010 to 66888**ADVENTUROUS** lady, bored at home, can't go on dates but wants to relax at home texting fun discreet men. Text ARCHT 206442 to 66888**NEW** to this, jane, fun brunette, busty, 30's, show me what to do. Text ARCHT 205730 to 66888**STRICT** school mistress seeks young men to text her, you won't be sorry! Text ARCHT 206491 to 66888**SUSIE**, nurse, works odd hours but available for fun after dark! Text ARCHT 205567 to 66888**SOLVENT** lady, likes the finer things in life but wants a real working man to chat with. Text ARCHT 205839 to 66888**CALL** lindy and offload your secrets, she's willing to listen and can also tell you hers. Text ARCHT 206433 to 66888**WELL** traveled business lady wants man willing to chat when she's away from home, bored and lonely. Text ARCHT 205766 to 66888**FOREIGN** beauty seeks down to earth male for chats about what english men like. Text ARCHT 206126 to 66888**SALLY**, attractive lady, 25yrs seeks men 50+ for chats. Text ARCHT 205655 to 66888

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707*GUY'S TEXT FOR FUN. SEND NTHCL** followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)**TIM**, 48, bank manager, busy at work but free to chat in the eves and weekends. Text ARCHT 205975 to 66888**INTERESTING** well traveled gent seeks inspiring conversation with lonely ladies. Text ARCHT 206453 to 66888**SINGLE** dad wants to chat with single mums, cheer each other up. Text ARCHT 203572 to 66888**Contact members by phone:****0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188**

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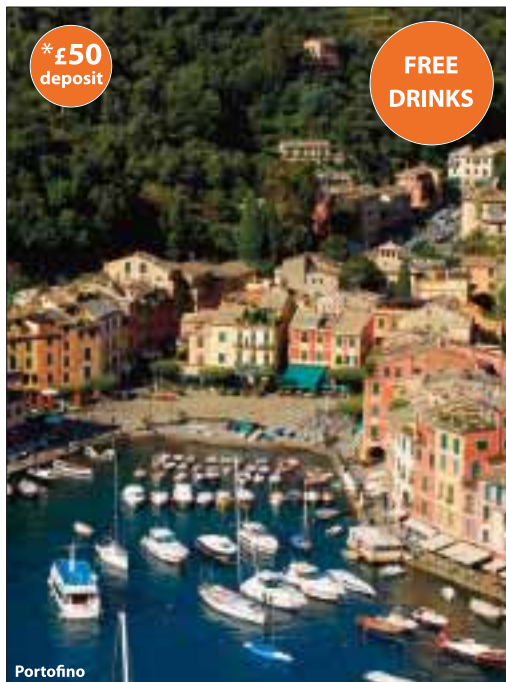
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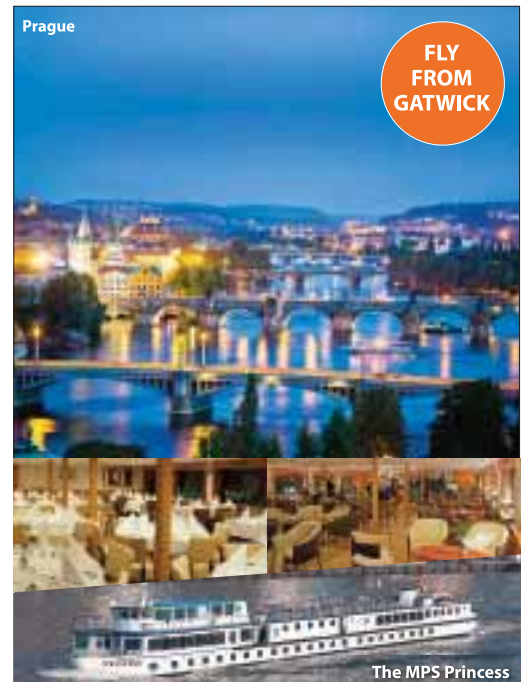
24 March, 2013

The Elbe River flows majestically through some of Germany's most historic and picturesque cities including Dresden and Meissen, then into the Czech Republic.

The holiday starts with a flight to Berlin where we stay overnight with time to visit some of the city's famous landmarks.

We then board the MPS Princess in Magdeburg and cruise through the magnificent sandstone mountains of the Saxon Alps, taking in a fabulous array of riverside towns, cities and scenery, before arriving in Prague, 'the city of a thousand spires' and stay overnight.

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Strathspey Steam Railway

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INCLUDED:

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29 April, 2013

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Keukenhof Gardens



The MV Virginia

comfortable outside twin bed cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

The highlight of the cruise is a full-day visit to Keukenhof Gardens where Holland's finest horticulturists put on a magnificent display of tulips and other colourful flowers in a parkland setting.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
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- 4 nights full board on board the MV Virginia sharing a twin outside cabin - upgrades available
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Business Week

Your business is our business

Four companies move to former Pfizer site to lift spirits in east Kent

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SANDWICH'S Discovery Park welcomed four new tenants this week as its bid to make itself a science hub for the county gathered momentum.

The companies – FosterCare UK, Vital Software, A4P Bio and Communicate – are now making the former Pfizer site their new home and taking advantage of the facilities left behind by the pharmaceutical giant.

Paul Barber, site managing director, said the newcomers demonstrated the opportunities for investment and job-creation that the park offered and were a sign that economic prospects for the area were improving.

"We are delighted Discovery Park has been chosen as the base for these diverse businesses, which will benefit the area in terms of jobs and investment," he said.

"Discovery Park is situated in a prime location with easy access to the main road network – we also benefit from Enterprise Zone status.

"Our vision is to create a thriving business hub centred on the world-class science and technology facilities we already have on site. To have welcomed four new businesses to Discovery Park and into Innovation House – our dedicated luxury office



DELIGHTED: Site MD Paul Barber

accommodation – is testament to our commitment to creating a vibrant work environment where businesses can connect, share and engage.

"As we develop the site we look forward to welcoming more businesses in 2013."

Working with an increasing number of local authorities, FosterCare UK has satellite offices in London and the South East but has decided to move its head office to Discovery Park, which is now home to some 20 companies, to meet its growth needs.

The independent fostering service, which employs 98 people, has moved into its 1,800sq ft offices.

Jonathan Toomey, managing director at FosterCare UK, said: "Moving our head office to Discovery Park has enabled FosterCare UK to bring all of the high-quality, child-centred services we provide into one central destination.

"As a rapidly-growing Kent-based business, the new office space gives us room to expand our services and continue the recruitment of new foster-carers in specialist areas."

Vital Software develops data-driven solutions for the automotive industry in the UK, Australia and The Netherlands and recently moved its offices to Discovery Park as part of its expansion plan.

Keith Bushell, managing director for Vital Software, said: "Discovery Park is the perfect location for our 13 UK-based staff. When we learned that the site was going to become an Enterprise Zone, it was the natural choice for our relocation.

"We are pleased to be in the park and are looking forward to meeting and working with other like-minded and forward-thinking companies."

Vital Software plans to continue its business expansion in the UK and Europe, having recently opened offices in Amsterdam.

Join the QR marketing revolution

A REVOLUTION in marketing is set to give forward-thinking businesses the chance to establish one-to-one relationships with clients via their mobile phones.

Newspaper and magazine articles and advertisements can have codes embedded or contain keywords to enable their websites to be accessed by people on the move.

The technology for the use of QR codes and SMS keywords has been around for several years – but what is new is its use in marketing for business via the printed page.

Terry McCusker is head of mobile for Archant, publisher of this newspaper.

"Readers are able to use their phones to scan the codes, type in keywords or text on their phones to access further information," he said.

"For example a restaurant advertisement – when scanned – can give the customer the menu and the opening times. A cinema or theatre can list what's on. Then, with a click, a call can be made on the phone to make a booking.

"The company also obtains the customer's phone details, so they can get in touch regarding offers, discounts or any other information.

"It's a great way for businesses to establish direct one-to-one relationships with their clients."

McCusker said there had been a huge surge in growth in internet traffic on mobile phones – with actually making a phone call now the fifth most popular option.

"If you're looking at the growth of the mobile market, I really think that sort of marketing is going to be very big," he said.

David Hodgkinson, of KPMG, has also been following developments in the field.

He said: "This will be an interesting year for mobile payments as some big players such as PayPal have called out their belief that NFC [Near Field Communications, such as smart phones] is not the right technology for great user experiences in this area.

"Naturally, the card schemes and telco players have a different view. The incredible take-off of mobile commerce on sites such as Amazon and eBay already represents tremendous growth in mobile payments overall and developments in mobile POS solutions such as Square's Register and other tablet-based software solutions are really exciting retailers due to their potential to revolutionise in-store and omnichannel shopping experiences.

"From a marketing perspective, all these developments represent tremendous opportunities and we're also starting to see in-app advertising models that are approaching an acceptable marriage between user experience and commerciality.

"Furthermore, the marriage of new competences such as in-game advertising with mobile marketing will provide ever more salient and personalised marketing. Having a suitably agile platform to take advantage of these opportunities will be a differentiator for B2C [business to customer] firms."

HMV runs off the tracks to spark job worries

ABOUT 150 jobs in Kent are at risk after the collapse into administration of entertainment chain HMV, which could signal the end of its 92-year presence on the high street.

The retailer of CDs, DVDs and computer games is set to appoint Deloitte as administrator after banks and suppliers ran out of patience with its financial performance.

The demise of HMV, which has stores in Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Folkestone and Tunbridge Wells, as well as in the Bluewater and Westwood Cross shopping centres, comes just days after the camera chain Jessops shut all its 187 stores. Both have been hit by consumers buying online and competition from supermarkets.

The explosion in digital downloading also badly affected HMV as UK consumers spent more than £1 billion on downloaded films, music and games in 2012, according

to the Entertainment Retailers Association.

Following poor returns before Christmas, HMV asked suppliers – which include the world's biggest music labels, games-makers and film studios – for £300 million of additional funding to pay off its debts. The appeal was rejected.

The bad results followed a 10.2 per cent slump in sales and its net debt rising to £176.1m over the six months to the end of October.

The chain launched a clearance sale on Saturday, with 25 per cent reductions on many products.

In a statement, HMV suspended trading in its shares but said the administrators would continue to keep stores open while they sought a purchaser for the business.

If a buyer keeps HMV on the high street, it is likely that most of the 230 UK stores will still close, with just a few profitable outlets remaining.



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There's a Channel storm coming as Eurotunnel bids to buy French ports

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EUROTUNNEL is bidding to take over the French ports of Calais and Boulogne, sparking fears that the operator would control too much of the cross-Channel travel industry.

A tendering process organised by the French is under way and will see the successful bidder awarded the concession to run the ports for 50 years.

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe said the cross-Channel rail firm's parent company, Groupe Eurotunnel, would make the bid for the ports, which are run by the Cote d'Opale Chamber of Commerce.

He said the company currently ran the cross-Channel shuttle service and also operated transport services and other port infrastructure around France.

The Calais and Boulogne bid was "entirely in keeping with the group strategy" and the company had background and experience in the field, he said.

"This is not us competing with P&O or with anybody on the [Dover-Calais] short strait. This is port infrastructure management and a completely different issue," said Keefe.

But Brian Rees, P&O spokesman, said the Office of Fair Trading had already referred Eurotunnel's recent purchase of former SeaFrance ships, which are now run as subsidiary MyFerryLink, to the Competition Commission.

He said: "To be honest, they have more front than Dolly Parton. The Tunnel is the biggest player in the market. They go and buy the SeaFrance ships and now they want to run the



CHOPPY WATERS?

P&O is not happy with Eurotunnel proposals to run the two French ports

French ports. It beggars belief – there has to be competition on the route across the Channel."

The Conservative MP for Dover and Deal, Charlie Elphicke, has also voiced his opposition.

He said the move could have an impact on ferry lines P&O and DFDS, which were predominantly British employers, and hit British jobs.

"Eurotunnel effectively own the [former] Sea-

France ferry company. Now they want to own the French ports of Calais and Boulogne," said Elphicke. "I am deeply concerned that this is too much control of the cross-Channel freight market in the hands of one operator."

He said the situation should be investigated by the Competition Commission and the European Competition Authorities.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

Traffic was busy on Eurotunnel's service over the holiday period and a new record was set in terms of vehicles carried.

During the period of intense traffic around the school holidays for Christmas and the new year, Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle broke its previous volume record.

Between December 14 and January 6, almost 200,000 passenger vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, vehicles with trailers, caravans, camper-vans and coaches crossed the Channel in both directions between Folkestone and Calais using the 35-minute service.

This is the equivalent to about one million passengers and is the highest level of Shuttle traffic during a comparable period since 2001.

Rural areas closing the broadband gap

THE digital divide between town and country should be narrowing as rural broadband comes a step closer thanks to a new agreement.

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and National Farmers Union (NFU) have finalised the new package of payment rates.

The terms will mean not-for-profit or private companies looking to install the infrastructure needed for a community rural broadband network can work with farmers and landowners.

This will help Government in its aim to roll out superfast broadband to rural and remote areas where the business case for previous broadband investment had been weak or non-existent.

The CLA has long petitioned for better broadband in the countryside to enable rural businesses to be more efficient.

Its South East regional director, Robin Edwards, said: "The importance of good rural broadband cannot be over-emphasised. It is essential for business, whether starting up



CONNECTED: It is hoped the new agreement will see broadband rolled out to isolated rural areas

or expanding, essential for education and research and an important communication tool for all rural communities.

"We are confident this package will help secure consent for a broadband infrastructure to be rolled out to the final third of the country who still suffer with chronically poor broadband."

The CLA and NFU example agreements suggest payment rates for broadband apparatus

that landowners can enter into with not-for-profit companies or private companies wishing to install a community broadband network.

There could also be circumstances where a landowner wishes to waive payment in return for their own high-speed broadband connection to the network.

The minister for culture, communications and creative industries, Ed Vaizey, said: "The

publication of the CLA and NFU rural wayleave agreement is great news.

"It will go a long way to making our roll-out of rural broadband cheaper and quicker by reducing the cost and time taken in negotiating individual land-access agreements while providing certainty to communications providers and ensuring landowners receive appropriate compensation."

Apprenticeships: the good news

SMEs looking to offer apprenticeships have been given a boost as grants for training are to be extended.

The Government has confirmed an extension of the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16-24 year olds to March 2014.

The £1,500 grant is available to help businesses with fewer than 1,000 employees take on an apprentice.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "Employers may be concerned about the time recruitment and training will take, and anxious about how it will work. So the £1,500 grant is a token to acknowledge this and thank them."

The National Apprenticeship Service's David Way said: "There has never been a better time to recruit an apprentice."

County town on the up

BUSINESS activity in the county town has grown during the past year.

A report by business advice organisation Duport Associates Ltd says 230 companies formed in Maidstone between July and September 2012 – a 6 per cent increase on the same period in 2011.

This compares with a 3.8 per cent increase in new company registrations across the UK.

Maidstone council's Malcolm Greer said: "This is excellent news for Maidstone. One of the council's key priorities is for Maidstone to have a growing

economy and we work in partnership with a range of organisations to support new and existing businesses across the borough."

The managing director of Duport, Peter Valaitis, said: "A rise in company formation is really good news for the Maidstone economy and suggests the town is moving forward as the recession comes to an end."

"The rising number of new companies should help the thriving retail and leisure industries continue to grow in years to come."

Training, courses and careers

Designed for laughter

MATURE students at MidKent College have designed a new stage for a comedy night at a pub based just yards from the college's Maidstone campus.

The Walnut Tree, near the Oakwood Park complex, approached the college to get interior design students to draw up proposals.

Claire Ashcroft, 38, from Biddenden, and Janet Lowther, 57, from Maidstone had their designs chosen and received gift vouchers.

Card is the perfect tonic

A ROCHESTER man has become the 100th member of the Tonic Creative Business Project card system.

The cards are used to pay for discounted short courses. Since it launched in July 2008, more than 700 students have taken advantage of them.

Nathan Dodsworth from Rochester was presented with a specially produced and engraved gold membership card.

Uni applications go up

THE University of Kent has reported a significant increase in UK undergraduate applications for entry in 2013.

As of the start of this month, applications were six per cent above the same time for 2012. It bucks the national trend which reveals a 6.3 per cent decrease.

Enrolment manager Mary Hughes said: "Kent's degree programmes remain in demand by high quality applicants."

Apprenticeships go under the microscope of council panel

KENT County Council is conducting a major survey to analyse the benefits of completing an apprenticeship.

A select committee has been charged with coming up with some basic answers and has already started the process. It is expected to report back to county chiefs by March 28.

The number of apprenticeships has dramatically risen recently; believed to be as a result of the sharp hike in university tuition fees.

Government has also recently introduced them for high end careers in law, accountancy and advanced engineering. It is estimated there are around 10,000 apprenticeships in the county in a variety of subjects.

Cllr Kit Smith is the chairman of the KCC select committee. The members have the chance to grill people like Peter Hobbs, the chief executive of Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce and Lindsay Jardine, director of operations, and the Kent Association of Training Organisations.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.



SCRUTINY: Kent County Council will discuss the findings at the end of March

Cllr Smith said: "We want to ensure that the apprenticeship qualification achieved fits the job when they are finished."

"They used to be just for manual jobs, but are today much broader and more professional."

As for the new law and other top level appren-

ticeships, Cllr Smith said: "And why not – there is nothing to stop someone becoming a barrister without going to university."

He added: "We have a short timescale to get this finished by March, but I think we can come with some worthwhile recommendations. We are keen to talk with people and get under the skin of apprenticeships today."

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Representatives from all departments will be present to discuss the details of the courses on offer. Options literature, which for Key Stage 5 courses can already be found on the [kentchoices4u](http://kentchoices4u.co.uk) website, may be obtained on the evening.

All applications for Post 16 students are to be made through the [kentchoices4u](http://kentchoices4u.co.uk) website

For further information telephone: 01580 764222 or email: info@homewood.kent.sch.uk



School set for entrance exam ahead of next academic year

THE entrance exam to get into Canterbury's prestigious Kent College takes place this week.

The school holds the Year 7 entrance test on Tuesday, January 22, with scholarship assessments following on the Wednesday and Thursday.

It is hoped the selection process will finalise entry ahead of the start of the next academic year in September.

What's more, Year 7 students will be able to benefit from the school's embracing of technology, which sees all students in the entry year provided with laptops.

Youngsters at the junior school already widely use the latest tablet machines.



EDUCATION: All pupils learn to embrace modern technology

Explained a spokesman for the school: "The majority of students at the school come from the county and our own bus service ensures safe

transport from Ashford, Sittingbourne, Dover, Hythe, Sandwich and Folkestone.

"The boarding houses within the school bring an exciting international cohort to the school and a 24/7 aspect to the lifestyle of the school. It also means we can run an extended school day, which is helpful to working parents."

"Our exam results are always excellent: placing us in top 100 co-educational boarding schools in the country for A-levels and top 10 for the International Baccalaureate."

Contact Mrs Jayne Simpson registrar@kentcollege.co.uk for more information.



First **GEAR**
MOTORING NEWS

- A3 Sportback What Car? Car Of The Year
- Mondeo shines as Ford scoops four gongs
- German efficiency wins through for BMW



Hyundai's in a rush to hit top as UK sales prove popularity

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By **Steve Loader**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOYOTA turned the premium-car sector on its head in 1990 by launching a whole new executive brand and the flagship model – the original LS.

Modelled on the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, seen then as the sector's technological leader as well as delivering status and comfort, the new Lexus attacked the big Merc by offering loads of luxury spec at a keen price. It was a big success and Lexus went on to challenge the very best of the world's premium brands, particularly the German powerbase of M-B, BMW and Audi.

And whereas the original LS didn't really offer big technological breakthroughs, three further generations have done so – notably in the form of petrol-electric hybrid power launched in 2007.

The latest car (from £71,995) is a radical facelift of the fourth-generation model launched in 2007 and not only continues to offer a hybrid system (total output 439bhp) but also introduces a world first, according to Lexus.

This is the 'climate concierge' installed in the £99,495 long-wheelbase hybrid flagship, the LS 600h L Premier. This system monitors the facial temperature of each occupant in the car and quickly adjusts the four-zone climate control, seat heaters/coolers and heated steering wheel to provide each with the most comfortable ambient temperature. Those in the back are also cosseted by electrically-operated reclining seats and adjustable footrests – one seat also has a power lumbar massage with remote control.

This underlines how top-end LS sales are dominated by those who expect to be driven rather than drive themselves, but Lexus has responded to demand for a version offering more feedback to those behind the wheel.

It's the first-ever LS F Sport model (£74,495) and features the 382bhp 4.6-litre V8 petrol engine expected to account for most UK sales.

It makes the most of the new sharper front end that exemplifies a new and sportier Lexus corporate look but also gains other cosmetics plus 19-inch F Sport alloys, Brembo brakes, a Torsen limited slip differential and handling modifications. It's sportier inside, too, with a dark cabin finish, perforated leather seats and steering wheel trim, scuff plates, aluminium pedals and aluminium-effect dashboard highlights.

But even the LS460 Luxury entry model exhibits a typical Lexus value-for-money spec, including 18-inch alloys, automatic bi-xenon headlamps and LED daytime running lights.

The cabin comes with leather upholstery, four-zone climate control, plus air-conditioned and electrically-adjustable front seats. On-board entertainment is provided by a 19-speaker Mark Levinson media system with DVD-player, DAB tuner, Bluetooth and USB/aux ports; the quality of a similar system aboard a rather more affordable and smaller Lexus IS model prompted me to say it was a potential marriage-breaker, seducing the driver to stay in his/her car.



LEXUS LS F SPORT

Price:	£71,995
Driving appeal:	Not yet driven
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★
Best rival:	Mercedes-Benz S-Class

Lexus flagship comfortably worth new sporting stripes



LUXURY: The Lexus LS F Sport is a thing of beauty thanks to a radical facelift inside and out. Extras may significantly bump up the price but all combine to give a high-class driving experience.

DON'T LIKE

... how it has taken Lexus ages to launch a sporting version. The Mercedes-Benz S-Class AMG does wonders for the image of the range.

NOT SURE

... the F Sport can transform the slightly staid LS image overnight, or that the Lexus flagship can challenge rivals seriously without a diesel option.

REALLY LIKE

... how the fourth-generation car has been so radically updated in style and character. The top model now mirrors brand advances elsewhere.

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MOTORING

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MiTo Romeo meets TwinAir Juliet for perfect partnership

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BMW would have you believe the modern Mini is a young person's car, but it's not particularly affordable and I reckon the average customer age is far higher anyway.

These older and affluent Mini fans will have bought one probably due to fond memories of the original Issigonis-designed Mini – the 1960s icon that endured far longer.

With the exception of the rally-bred Cooper S and later 1275GT, though, most old Minis couldn't pull the skin off the proverbial rice pudding, but they were fun to drive.

And now Alfa Romeo has created something similar by marrying its MiTo supermini with parent group Fiat's award-winning TwinAir – a tiny turbocharged twin-cylinder petrol engine with a big heart (0-62mph in 12.5 seconds).

It was a union destined to happen; the MiTo line-up includes two diesel options, but the car's pliant chassis and handling is better partnered with lighter petrol units and, best of all, the relatively featherweight 85bhp TwinAir – now the best-selling MiTo variant.

You must keep the revs up if you really want to drive it hard, though, as you had to with another famous twin-cylinder car, Citroën's legendary 2CV, as well as the original Mini.

You'll also want to select the most aggressive of three driving modes available in Alfa's unique DNA system, a feature you would expect on cars costing far more and able to alter the steering, suspension and accelerator and gearshift responses, with D (Dynamic) unleashing the little beast in the TwinAir.

Most of the time, though, you need the creature tethered in N (Normal) mode and milking the TwinAir's economy – the official combined cycle figure is 67.3mpg – and justifying road tax-exempt CO₂ emissions of only 98g/km.

The remaining A (All Weather) mode is selected when torrential rain, ice or snow makes driv-

ALFA ROMEO MITO TWINAIR SPRINT: PRICE £14,150 FACT FILE



Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Best rival:	★★★
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A DREAM MACHINE:

Alfa Romeo has married its MiTo supermini with parent group Fiat's award-winning TwinAir engine to make one of the most eye-catching small cars on the market

ing hazardous – the car helps here with optimum braking, throttle and steering.

If I'm being picky, the twin-cylinder can sound uncomfortably and not unnaturally like a 2CV under stress but settles to quiet, miserly cruising in top at about 2,000 revs when, theoretically, you could be getting more than 70mpg.

This is a bonus on top of driving one of the most eye-catching small cars you can buy; the MiTo – a name created from pairing Italy's fashion capital of Milano, with motor city Torino – proves Alfa's long-standing ability to create style on a short wheelbase.

A personal favourite was the Giugiaro-designed 60s/70s Giulietta Sprint, while the MiTo has naturally been hailed as the long-awaited heir to the great Alfasud (1976-89).

The MiTo arrived in 2008 and a few rough edges were smoothed out by a major makeover in 2011, which also consolidated a rather confusing line-up.

As a three-door with small rear windows that looks more like a coupé, the MiTo can feel claustrophobic for those in the back, so maybe it's not a car for young families. However, it makes a strong case as a distinctive and stylish alternative to the ubiquitous Mini and other cars targeting the image-conscious, like the Citroën DS3 and the MiTo's group sister, the Fiat 500.

There is a lot of distinctive style woven into the cabin design and – answering criticisms of past Alfas – everything feels robust and durable.

The MiTo range also looks great value from £12,500, but this solitary Progression trim version comes without DNA and alloys – a bit like asking a supermodel to hit the catwalk without poise and wearing wellies.

So you must trade up slightly to Sprint spec (from £13,205) to get the generous goodies. These also include Blue & Me, the Fiat group's Bluetooth hands-free and USB media-player input with steering-wheel controls.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



What Car? star A3 Sportback

AUDI'S new A3 Sportback – the premium family hatchback's five-door version – is What Car? Car Of The Year and also landed the Small Family Car category at the prestigious awards.

The title's editor-in-chief, Chas Hallett, said: "The Audi A3 Sportback mixes excellent refinement and accomplished driving experience with easily the finest cabin quality ever seen in a small family hatchback."



Mondeo best of Ford's four

FORD gained four What Car? gongs, including two for the Mondeo – Best Family Car and Best Estate – even as it nears the end of its production life.

The Fiesta was Best Supermini, and Focus ST-1, pictured, Best Hot Hatch.

Hallett said: "Ford really is building great cars. Its cars look good are great to drive, reliable and make great buys."



BMW scoops another three

BMW'S wins were headed by Best Executive Car for the BMW 3 Series' 320d ED Automatic.

"When you consider its spacious, classy and user-friendly cabin, and its frugal running costs, there is no need to upgrade to bigger, more expensive executive cars," was the Hallett verdict here.

BMW's other wins were Best SUV (X3) and Best Open-top (Mini Roadster Cooper S).

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Model shown is Alfa Giulietta 1.6 JTDm-2 105 bhp Lusso at £20,440 OTR¹ including Ghiaccio White special paint at £490. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 53.3 mpg (10.8 – 5.3 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.3 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 177 – 114 g/km.
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12/12 1.2 12V SE 5dr MPV Metallic Brilliant Silver 7 miles £9,650

ŠKODA Octavia

11/11 2.0 TDI CR Elegance 5dr Hatchback Metallic Cappuccino Beige 10,292 miles £13,995

12/12 2.0 TDI CR vRS DSG 5dr Hatchback Metallic Green 8,200 miles £17,995

ŠKODA Yeti

12/12 1.6 TDI Elegance GreenLine 5dr Corrida Red 3,831 miles £19,995

10/60 2.0 TDI CR 4x4 S 5dr Metallic Steel Grey 12,549 miles £16,995

ŠKODA Superb

12/12 1.6 TDI CR SE 5dr Hatchback Metallic Grey 12,956 miles £16,995

12/12 1.6 TDI CR Elegance GreenLine 5dr Estate Metallic Black 7,574 miles £20,495

12/62 2.0 TDI CR (170BHP) DPF L&K DSG 5dr Estate Metallic Brown 8,200 miles £24,995

12/62 2.0 TDI CR 4x4 Elegance DSG 5dr Estate Metallic Storm Blue 5,000 miles £27,695

12/12 2.0 TDI CR Elegance DSG (170BHP) 5dr Estate Metallic Aqua Blue 8,000 miles £21,995

ŠKODA Citigo

12/62 1.0 MPI 60PS Elegance Green Tech 3dr Candy White 984 miles £8,495

ŠKODA Rapid

12/62 1.2 TSI SE 5dr Hatchback Candy White 3,000 miles £13,995

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11 11	ASTRA EXCLUSIV TOURER 1.3 5dr, Sovereign Silver.....	£11,995
11 61	NEW ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5dr, Silver Lake.....	£12,995
11 61	ASTRA SRI CDTi 2.0 5dr, Silver Lake.....	£13,995
11 61	ASTRA GTC TBO 1.6 3dr, White.....	£15,995
12 61	NEW ASTRA ACTIVE 1.6 5dr, Sovereign Silver.....	£13,995
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11 61	AGILA SE 1.2 5dr, Steel Silver.....	£9,495
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12 12	MERIVA ACTIVE 1.4 5dr, Technical Grey.....	£12,995
12 12	MERIVA LTD 1.4 5dr, White.....	£14,995
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10 10	CORSA SRI 1.4 3dr, Silver Lake.....	£8,275
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Thamesview School
and Educational Progression Centre

PD WELFARE ASSISTANT

34.58 hrs per wk for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 3
£14,241.00 - £16,144.00 per annum
Pro rata to £11,231.08 - £12,731.87 pa
Plus SEN Allowance of £1,181 pa

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Welfare Assistants to work closely with and support the needs of physically disabled (PD) students.

The post holder will be required to support PD students both in the classroom and within the PD area with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. Experience of dealing with students' welfare therefore is essential and the post holder will be required to undertake moving and handling training.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities. Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 29th January 2013
Interviews: Week Commencing 4th February 2013

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

ACORN GROUP

RESIDENTIAL • EDUCATION • OUTREACH

Acorn Group provides an extensive range of specialist services throughout the South of England, including Residential Sports and Activities Children's Homes, Semi-Independent Living, Fostering Service and Education via our own DfE registered school.

We are currently seeking to recruit new team members who share our ethos of promoting the development of personal, social and academic skills alongside a sense of team spirit; where Children and Young people are enabled to positively channel frustration and negative experiences through sports and other energising activities. Due to rapid expansion, we are currently recruiting:

Registered Home Managers - £28,000 - £32,000 per annum

To maintain the smooth running of the home by promoting a harmonious culture co-ordinating, supervising, and facilitating the team in delivering high standards of care. Providing protection and support to the children and young people by facilitating their physical, psychological, emotional and social development.

Level 4 NVQ / Diploma 5 in the Caring for Children and Young People / RMA Award required and experience essential.

Team Leaders - £18,720 per annum

A team leader is responsible for the supervision of a team of support staff to ensure that young people receive a person specific individualised service of care.

Knowledge of Management theories, Child related / social care qualification with a minimum Level of NVQ level 3 in the Caring for Children and Young People preferred.

Maths and Science Teacher - £20,000 - £24,000 per annum

To plan and prepare courses and lessons for SEN students; to teach the Curriculum with regard and thought to the educational needs of the students. Previous experience and Maths to a minimum of A-level standard is essential.

Interested candidates should apply before 1st February 2013 by downloading an application form from our website at www.acornhomes.eu or requesting an application form from Human Resources on hr@acornhomes.eu or 01843- 482510. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

Successful candidates will be required to undertake an enhanced CRB check.

Lauriem

Earn from £500 per week as a member of our live-in-care team.

Lauriem LLP are recruiting now for experienced carers to join their established live in care team. Applicants must be able to commit to supporting adults on a live in care basis within Kent.

Reliability and a caring approach are vital attributes for these positions. The work flexibility to spend a minimum of a full week, or longer, living with and caring for our clients within their own homes is necessary to secure these ongoing and sought after positions.

Previous care experience is essential. Lauriem do provide training for all successful applicants to refresh and update their care skills.

Ideally applicants will be aged over 25, hold a full driving licence, and most importantly, be committed to and able to demonstrate a desire to deliver outstanding care services.

For further information and an application form please contact;
01843 482483 and ask for Amanda Parker or Chris Quantock or e mail;
Amanda.Parker@lauriem.co.uk

Please note appointments to these positions are subject to interviews, satisfactory references and enhanced CRB checks.

Principal/Chief Executive

- > **COMPETITIVE SIX-FIGURE SALARY**
- > **ATTRACTIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE**
- > **RELOCATION PACKAGE**
- > **SUPPORTED PROGRESSION INTO CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE**

Are you INNOVATIVE, INSPIRING and AMBITIOUS?

MidKent College comprises three key elements: MKC Training Services, which provides all of the training for the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham; our new £86 million campus at Medway; and our Maidstone Campus, which is currently undergoing a major refurbishment.

As one of the biggest and best providers of further and higher education in the country, we are now on the hunt for an exceptional new principal who will take over as principal/chief executive from 2015.

From September 2013 we are separating out the roles of principal and chief executive. Stephen Grix will continue part-time as the chief executive responsible for the strategic direction of the College and MKC Training Services. The successful candidate for this post will spend their first two years leading the College as principal and from 2015 will move into the combined role of principal/chief executive.

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/principal for more information and to apply for this life-changing career opportunity. Alternatively call HR director Andrea Ashman for an informal discussion on 01634 383544.

Closing date: Monday 25 February 2013 Interview dates: Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 March 2013

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

MidKent College

Part-time CLEANER

required for
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 Job share basis, week on week off.
 2 hrs. per day 14 hrs per week.
 Local person preferred.
 Telephone Carol - 01634 891484

**Integrated Youth Officer**

Maidstone (Shepway Youth Centre)
 (Salary: £23,054 - £26,421 pro rata)

0.5fte to be worked mainly evenings and weekends

Project Salus is a social enterprise established to deliver the services previously undertaken by Kent Safe Schools. We have recently been commissioned to deliver Youth Services in South East Urban Maidstone including the Shepway Youth Centre.

We are currently seeking an Integrated Youth Officer to implement our range of centre and street-based youth services in Maidstone. The role will involve working directly with young people and agencies, offering services and support with an aim to improve young people's emotional health and well-being.

We are looking for a talented individual, experienced in working directly with young people in creative and innovative ways to achieve the best possible outcomes. This post will require energy and enthusiasm to ensure the success of this highly valued service.

For more information please contact Peter Heckel on 07725595519

For an application pack please contact Katie Ling on 01303 817470 or at katie.ling@projectsalus.co.uk

Closing Date: Monday 28th January at 5pm
 Interviews will be held on the Thursday 7th February



We are looking for an individual to assist with customer sales and technical support for our products via phone and email.

This will primarily be an office based position but may involve some travel abroad to assist at tradeshow.

Full product training will be given but knowledge of HiFi or consumer electronics would be beneficial.

Working experience with email and Microsoft office would be expected and good phone and writing skills is essential.

Please send CV and introduction letter to: valerie@chordelectronics.co.uk

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 📍 Your Dover 📍 Your Maidstone 📍 Your Shepway 📍 Your Thanet

News reporters - Trainees

Permanent role, based in Smeth, near Ashford.

A GOLDEN opportunity has arisen to join our hard-working news team across our range of titles, including Kent on Sunday and our websites.

We are seeking someone with a determined desire to shine and develop into a valued member of our news - gathering team, with an appetite for getting the very best stories and an ability to come up with non-stop ideas in this highly competitive industry.

The right candidate will be able to turn around crisp, informative and entertaining copy on everything from hard-hitting crime stories to in-depth features.

We'll provide all the support and encouragement to develop your talents. You'll need to be able to perform under pressure, prioritise workloads, be an excellent communicator both verbally and with the written word, and be a team player.

We would expect you to have your NCTJ preliminary certificate, have undertaken work experience placements and be hungry to prove yourself.

These opportunities don't come around often. In exchange, we offer a competitive salary, pension scheme, five weeks' annual leave and a host of other voluntary benefits. You will be based in our office in Smeth. It is essential you have a car and hold a full driver's licence.

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies

**"We grow people"**

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Physiotherapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 to A-point 32 to 46 (£27,052 to £38,961)

(full time-term time only-pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites: Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed. Salary is negotiable between top and bottom scales.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 25.1.13

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

**"We grow people"**

Following the retirement of the current postholder, the Governors at Abbey Court School are seeking to appoint a...

Deputy Headteacher

L18 - L22 (£56,950 to £62,811)

We are looking for a dynamic and forward thinking individual, who has the passion, commitment and drive to maintain the school's outstanding status. The ideal candidate will be somebody who can enthuse parents and staff, as well as having an ability to engage the wider community. The successful candidate will work in partnership with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, and will have responsibility for the day to day running of one site, ensuring continuous improvement in all areas.

In return, the school can offer: happy children who respond well to challenge, an exciting, enquiry based approach to teaching and learning, a commitment to continuous professional development, which promotes and encourages further Leadership development and freedom to develop the role further.

Abbey Court School delivers a full curriculum to pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 to 19.

The school is split and based at two sites 12 miles apart: (Nursery/Primary in Rainham and Secondary/F.E. in Strood), and is located in pleasant surroundings with educational resources of enviable proportions.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school are warmly welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 25.1.13

Interviews: 14/15.2.13

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

The National Careers Service is here in Medway

If you're looking for a job and don't know where to start, or wondering about a new career, or thinking about improving your qualifications and skills, drop-in and speak to us. You'll get **free and friendly advice** from one of our qualified Careers Advisers.

Help includes:

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- Interview Techniques
- Job Searching Advice
- Information on training

You can visit us at:

- Connexions, 24 High Street, Gillingham ME7 1BB (THURSDAYS only)
- Medway Youth Trust, 205-217 New Road, Chatham ME4 4QA (TUESDAYS only)
- 48 Canterbury Street, Gillingham ME7 5UN (MONDAYS only, by appointment)

You can also book a local face-to-face appointment by calling
0800 1954 700
nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

**The Op Shop Ltd Wish to appoint a CHARITY SHOP MANAGER**

£13,000 - £15,000 per annum (depending on experience)
 40 hours/week including Saturdays

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to manage a local charity shop in Cheriton which raises funds for the work of the Folkestone Rainbow Centre. You will be responsible for running a volunteer team. Previous experience of retail management essential.

For further details and an application form please contact:

Folkestone Rainbow Centre by emailing info@rainbow-centre.org or

Telephone 01303 850733 between 10am - 1pm

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 8 February 2013

Interviews will be held on Thursday 28 February 2013

**Working For Wildlife****Reliable people required**

to recruit members on behalf of the Woodland Trust at pre-booked venues and organised events.

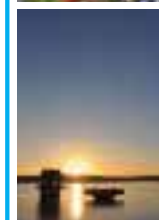
This is an extremely rewarding opportunity with high earning potential.

Applicants will receive full training and support.

Your own transport is essential.

Apply in writing to:

ian@working4wildlife.org

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY**Career opportunities at MidKent College**

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality Ref: P06

£23.44 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience) - Medway

We are looking to appoint a passionate and creative individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Recent industry experience is essential.

Closing date: 12 noon, Friday 25 January 2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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PLANNING



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 04 FEBRUARY 2013

SW/11/1564:

Listed Building Consent for removal of 20th century red brick wall to the west. (Please note that although not part of this application, the historic wall that was removed is to be rebuilt on the same line using the same bricks) (Please note amended description and amended plan) - Gosmere Farm House, SHELDWICH: REASON 2

SW/12/1157:

Change of use from office to residential (revert building back to 3-bed house) - 50 Broadway, SHEERNESS: REASON 1

SW/12/1517:

Proposed single storey side extension with internal alterations - 2 Roman Road, FAVERSHAM: REASON 1

SW/12/1532:

Single storey rear extension to residential dwelling to accommodate extended kitchen, utility and sanitary facilities - 6 Briton Road, FAVERSHAM: REASON 1

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/02097/FUL: Altira Business Park, Margate Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6LA Erection of a foodstore (Use Class A1) including a cafe, industrial/commercial units (Use Class B1, B2 and/or B8), petrol filling station, surface level car parking, new access and highway works, landscaping, servicing and associated works. **Applicant: Terrace Hill (Herne Bay) Limited** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA/12/02155/FUL: 32 Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury, CT2 7HF Loft conversion incorporating dormer window to rear elevation and rooflights to front elevation. **Applicant: Ms Rogers** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00007/FUL: 41 Victoria Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JA Removal and replacement of dilapidated part rear of dwelling and infill of side yard. **Applicant: Mr Vanzon** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00012/FUL: The Willows, Church Lane, Petham, CT4 5RD Demolition of conservatory and proposed rebuild on same footprint with flat roof over incorporating balcony. **Applicant: Mr Bartram** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00024/FUL: Harlington, London Road, Harbledown, CT2 9AN Demolition of existing porch and creation of a new porch. **Applicant: Mr Flower** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00034/LB: 49 Shalloak Road, Broad Oak, Sturry, CT2 0QH External and internal alterations in association with proposed conversion of existing garage into habitable room. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Chapman** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00045/FUL: 14 New Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AU Greenhouse at rear of property. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Parnell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00053/FUL: 82 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AD Demolition of existing service rooms attached to rear of 82 St Dunstan's Street and replacement two-storey extension on the existing footprint. **Applicant: Mr Thompson** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00060/FUL: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Extensions and alterations, including localised demolitions. **Applicant: Mrs Hilary Crowder** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00063/LB: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Extensions and alterations, including localised demolitions. **Applicant: Mrs Hilary Crowder** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00073/FUL: 1 Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3ND Erection of conservatory. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Khandzhyan** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 11 February 2013**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 18 January 2013

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 13/00046/HOUSE** **Paper Mill Oast Hinksdon Road, Benenden**
- Two-storey side extension with balcony to south elevation (LB)
- 12/03447/FUL** **Sissinghurst Castle Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Resurfacing of footpath in orchard (LB)
- 12/03568/HOUSE** **Staddleden Starvenden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Two storey rear extension and internal alterations (LB)
- 12/03569/LBC** **Staddleden Starvenden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Two-storey rear extension and internal alterations (LB)
- 12/03537/FUL** **Gregory Rowcliffe & Milners Solicitors 10 St Johns Road, Culverden**
- Change of use from offices and workshop to four bed dwelling to include conservatory at basement level and rear balcony at upper ground level (CA)
- 13/00014/FULMJ** **Land Rear Of Fowlers Park, Hawkhurst**
- Redevelopment of the site to provide 120 No. dwellings with associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space provision (DEVPLN) (LB) (MAJOR) (PROW)
- 13/00043/HOUSE** **1 Furnace Avenue Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst**
- Part demolition of existing and construction of 2 storey side extension (CA)
- 12/03534/FULMJ** **Land Rear Of The Old School House 17 And 19 Chapel Place And Pantiles & St Marks**
- Redevelopment of buildings to the rear of The Old School House and alterations to 17 and 19 Chapel Place to create extension to hotel, including construction of tunnel and sub-basement level to existing hotel building and associated alterations to rear of hotel (LB) (MAJOR) (PROW) (CA)
- 12/03535/LBC** **The Brew House Hotel 1 Warwick Park, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Redevelopment of buildings to the rear of The Old School House and alterations to 17 and 19 Chapel Place to create extension to hotel, including construction of tunnel and sub-basement level to existing hotel building and associated alterations to rear of hotel (LB)
- 12/03546/HOUSE** **Tumblewood Rodmell Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Single storey side extension; Conversion of double garage to residential accommodation (CA)
- 12/03549/HOUSE** **7 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Demolition of existing single garage and construction of new double garage with basement store room and bed/sitting room over (CA) (LB)
- 12/03550/LBC** **7 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing single garage and construction of new double garage with basement store room and bed/sitting room over (LB)
- 12/03559/FUL** **Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Single storey dwelling (altering to dwelling granting planning permission under TW/04039/FUL as amended by TW/11/03705/NMAMD) (CA)
- 12/03488/FUL** **Malthouse Farm Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Demolition of existing barn and replacement with detached 4 bedroom dwelling of similar style, detached garage building including 2 open bays, new vehicle and pedestrian access, swimming pool and pump room to the rear and associated landscaping (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegates.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgegates.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 19 January 2013



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

- MA/12/1909/S** - LAND EAST OF CHANCE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD - Erection of 5 houses with associated parking. **Reason: 9**
- MA/12/2157/S** - KNOWLE HILL FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Erection of a first floor extension and modification to roof, plus erection of a replacement storm porch. **Reason: 1**
- MA/12/2165/N** - PRIMROSE COTTAGES, OTHAM STREET, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RN - Installation of a field access gate. **Reason: 1 2**
- MA/12/2197/S** - MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9QQ - Erection of first floor front extension with glazed entrance and new pitched roofs above single storey projections on both sides. **Reason: 6**
- MA/12/2212/S** - MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9QQ - Erection of single storey front extension and new pitched roofs above single storey projections on both sides. **Reason: 6**
- MA/12/2217/N** - HSBC, 1 - 5, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QW - Installation of 2 ATMs and new shop front on Week Street elevation and installation of 3 air conditioning units. **Reason: 1 2**
- MA/12/2255/S** - NURSES HOME, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9NN - Outline planning permission for the erection of 53 residential units with all matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1 6**
- MA/12/2268/N** - THE TEN BELLS, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1SE - An application for conservation area consent for the demolition of existing extensions. **Reason: 4**
- MA/12/2301/N** - 18, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1HT - Change of use of building from A1 and A2 to A3 (restaurant/cafe). **Reason: 1 2**
- MA/12/2302/N** - 18, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1HT - Listed building consent is sought for internal alterations to facilitate a change of use to A3. **Reason: 3**
- MA/12/2314/N** - PLOT 4, ECLIPSE PARK, SITTINGBOURNE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3EN - Erection of Class A1 retail development (with ancillary cafe) and associated servicing, car parking, landscaping and access arrangements. **Reason: 6**
- Reasons for advertisement key:**
- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
 - 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
 - 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
 - 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
 - 6 - Application is Major Development.
 - 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **3rd February 2013** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 20th January 2013.



To advertise in this section

01303 817056

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

KCC/MA/0427/2012 - Proposed development at St Johns C of E Primary School, Provender Way, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5TZ.

Kent County Council Property and Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed construction of 2 classroom extension and internal alterations, new playground area and associated fencing. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 14 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

KCC/SW/0440/2012 - Proposed development at Sittingbourne Transfer Station, Units 5 - 7 West Lane, West Lane Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3JT.

SITA UK Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for an application for change of use from a non-hazardous waste transfer station to a combined hazardous and non-hazardous waste transfer station with associated single storey portacabin, four non-hazardous waste storage bays and a hazardous waste storage building.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 20 January 2013



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

- Y13/0003/SH** - Broadview Old Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Conservation area consent for the demolition of existing retaining wall.
- Y12/1128/SH*** - Land adjoining Hide 'n Seek Stone Street Stanford South Kent TN25 6DE - Erection of detached chest bungalow and detached garage.
- Y12/1131/SH** - Paddlesworth Court Farm Paddlesworth Court Paddlesworth Folkestone Kent - Erection of a two storey side extension.
- Y12/1149/SH** - Paddlesworth Court Farm Paddlesworth Court Paddlesworth Folkestone Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZSX77 IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS
PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZSX77
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(3),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZSX77 between West Street and the junction with Public Footpath ZSX76 between the Chefs Diner and PTC Limited (NGR TQ 908 735) from the 1st February 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st March 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by the Kingsnorth Parish Council under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 4th March 2013. Please quote reference VGA648.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be

forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 0.3 acres (0.1 hectares) in size situated to the rear of property numbers 17 to 23 Riverside Close at Kingsnorth.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Ms. S. Pettman under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 4th March 2013. Please quote reference VGA650.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 3.6 acres (1.5 hectares) in size known as the Kingsmead Recreation Ground and situated at Kingsmead Road, opposite the Kingsmead Leisure Centre, in the city of Canterbury

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by the Shepway

Environment and Community Network under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 4th March 2013. Please quote reference VGA647.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 8.7 acres (3.5 hectares) in size situated on the western side of Stone Street and south of the M20 motorway and forming part of Folkestone Racecourse at Westenhangar in the parish of Stanford.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. R. Fitzpatrick under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England)

Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 4th March 2013. Please quote reference VGA649.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 1.1 acres (0.4 hectares) in size situated adjacent to the Number One Community Centre and Showfields Library at the junctions of Rowan Tree Road and Showfields Road on the Showfields estate in Tunbridge Wells.

Countryside Access Service
 Kent County Council
 Invicta House
 County Hall
 Maidstone
 Kent
 ME14 1XX

Dated: 20th January 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
 Kent Countryside Access Service,
 on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess





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To place your legal notices

call **01303 817056** or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**

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ARCHANT

KOS MEDIA

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

SWAN STREET, WITTERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swan Street, Wittersham, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Finches and Marefield House.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Maytham Road and Poplar Road.

The alternative route is via Palstre Court Road (Wittersham Road) and B2082 Poplar Road.

WAREHORNE LEVEL CROSSING, WAREHORNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warehorne Level Crossing, Warehorne, from Sunday 27 January 2013 at 08:00 hrs until Monday 28th January 2013 at 04:00 hrs.

Church Road, Warehorne will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Firs Lane, Hogg Lane and Arrowhead Lane.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

OWLS HATCH ROAD, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-line Braggs Culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Owls Hatch Road, Herne Bay, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed approximately 100 metres west of the junction with Bullockstone Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between Thornden Wood Road and Bullockstone Road using this route.

The alternative route is via Thornden Wood Road, Greenhill Road, A2990 Thanet Way to Greenhill Roundabout, Bullockstone Road and Owls Hatch Road.

ROPER ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of a mobile crane to remove a tower crane, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Roper Road, Canterbury, on or after 27 January 2013 for up to 1 day, between 07:00 hrs until 00:00 hrs (midnight).

If weather prevents these works going ahead on the planned date, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Dunstan's Street.

The alternative route is via A290 St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road and Beverley Road.

SEASALTER LANE, SEASALTER & RECULVER LANE, RECULVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seasalter Lane, Seasalter and Reculver Lane, Reculver, as shown below.

SEASALTER LANE, SEASALTER - closed for its entire length, from 7 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Faversham Road, Joy Lane, Borstall Hill, Clapham Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Seasalter off slip.

Northbound via A299 Thanet Way, High Street Off-slip, Highstreet Road, Thanet Way Overbridge, A299 Thanet Way eastwards, A2990 Thanet Way, Borstall Hill, Joy Lane and Faversham Road

RECULVER LANE, RECULVER - closed for its entire length, on 8 February 2013, between 07:30 hrs and 11:30 hrs

There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so. There will be some times when this is not possible, with resultant delays

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL CANTERBURY (PRE-PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in villages to the south of Canterbury, as shown below.

All closures are between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day, with roads re-opened outside these times.

BRITTON FARM ROAD, ICKHAM - will be closed for its entire length, from 4 February 2013 for up to 2 days
There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

CARTER ROAD, BEKESBOURNE - closed for its entire length, on 6 February 2013

The alternative route is via Shepherd's Close Road, Bramling Road and Adisham Road

BAYE LANE, ICKHAM - closed for its entire length on 8 February 2013 and 11-13 February 2013

The alternative route is via Wingham Lane (Road), The Street (Ickham), Wickham Lane, Wickham Road, The Street (Wickhambreaux) and Seaton Road

OLD PALACE ROAD, BEKESBOURNE - closed for its entire length, from 12 February 2013 for 2 days

The alternative route is via The Street, Station Road and School Lane

TOWER HILL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a raised pedestrian crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tower Hill, Whitstable, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 1 week, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the footpath to the Tea Gardens, with no through access between the junctions with Tower Parade / Tankerton Road and Park Avenue.

The alternative route is via B2205 Tankerton Road and Park Avenue.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Tower Hill will be suspended between the junctions with Tower Parade and Park Avenue to allow access from either direction up to the point of closure.

WATLING STREET, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the placement of equipment to inspect Riding Gate Footbridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Watling Street, Canterbury, on or after 10 February 2013 for up to 1 day, between 07:00 hrs and 13:00 hrs.

The road will be closed to southeast bound traffic in the vicinity of the junction with A28, with no access from Watling Street to the A28 Rhodaus Lane / Upper Bridge Street.

The alternative route is via St George's Lane and St George's Street.

The order restricting the use of St George's Lane to buses and taxis only will be suspended, to allow its use as a diversion.

Northwest bound traffic is unaffected.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

SHELLBANK LANE, BEAN, DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to allow access to the carriageway boxes for cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shellbank Lane, Bean, Dartford, on or after 4th February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Green Street to junction with High Street. There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Green Street. Sandbanks Hill, Southfleet Road, High Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) CONSOLIDATION
(AMENDMENT NO 13) ORDER 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to introduce:

- i) No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Dartford: Abbey Road, Alexander Road, Blenheim Close, Blenheim Road, Darenth Road, Dene Road, Eynsford Road, Joyce Green Lane, Knockhall Road, Pattersdale Road, Teesdale Road;
- ii) No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Dartford (no changes to restrictions already in place on site): Myrtle Place, Watling Street;
- iii) No waiting Monday - Friday 8am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4pm restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Dartford: Lunedale Road;
- iv) No stopping Monday - Friday 8am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4pm on school entrance markings restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Dartford: Eynsford Road, Lunedale Road, Main Road, Parsons Lane;
- v) No stopping Monday - Friday 8am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4pm on school entrance markings restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Dartford (no changes to restrictions already in place on site): Heath Lane, King Edward Avenue, Littlebrook Manor Way, St Edmunds Road, Swanscombe Street.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ or at Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to support or object to the making of the Order should do so in writing by noon on 11th February 2013 to either TRO@kent.gov.uk or Traffic Schemes and MHF Team, KCC Highway and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

GROVE ROAD, PRESTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grove Road, Preston, on or after 5 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, with no access between Preston and the A28, using this route.

The alternative route is via Stourmouth Road, Preston Road, The Street, Gore Street, A253 Ramsgate Road, A28 Island Road, Grove Ferry Road and Grove Road.

A258 LONDON ROAD / SANDWICH ROAD, SHOLDEN
(30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the workforce and public during site construction works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the A258 London Road / Sandwich Road, Sholden, Deal, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

This affects the section of road from the existing 30 mph speed limit north westwards to the junction to Fowlmead Country Park, and applies in both directions, when the relevant signs are on site.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT)

(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 16) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL makes the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order prohibits waiting at the following locations:-

- Dodd's Lane, Dover On the north west side of the road. From a point 10m NE of its junction with Crabble Hill, for a distance of 13m in a north easterly direction

Mount Road, Dover On the north west side of the road, from a point in line with the north eastern boundary of no.52, for a distance of 7m in a south westerly direction.

Northcote Road, Deal At the north end of the road, along the north extremity of the road for 6m, and extending 8m on each side of the road from the north end of the road in a southerly direction.

Canterbury Road, Wingham On both sides of the road. From the boundary of no.1 and no.2 Canterbury Road, in a north easterly then easterly direction for a distance of 60m.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 7 March 2013 and will come into operation on 11 March 2013.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

CHAPMAN HILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapman Hill, on or after 4th February 2013 for up to 10 Days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Rosemary Lane to South Street.

The alternative route is via Chapmans Hill -Rosemary lane - Hodsall Street -Wrotham road-Chapmans Hill

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BABYLON LANE, SUTTON VALENCE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install gullies and interconnecting pipework, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Babylon Lane, Sutton Valence, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "Kenmal".

The alternative route is via New Barn Road, Headcorn Road, Forsham Lane.

BOARLEY LANE, BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a new sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boarley Lane, Boxley, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Old Chatham Road access way to "The Old Mill House".

The alternative route is via Old Chatham Road, Boarley Lane.

CLAPPER LANE, STAPLEHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

through traffic on Clapper Lane, Staplehurst, on or after 21 January 2013 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Lindridge to Grave Lane.

The alternative route is via Marden Road, Station Road, A229 Maidstone Road.

PRISTLING LANE, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of installation of a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pristling Lane, Staplehurst, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 35 Days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Goudhurst Road to Snood Lane

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Goudhurst Road to Snood Lane.

The alternative route is via Five Oak Lane, Goudhurst Road.

TESTON LANE, TESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to change defective sleepers under the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Teston Lane, Teston, on or after 9 February 2013 for up to 1 night between 22.00hrs and 11.59hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via B2010 Lower Road, Station Road, Farleigh Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

HORTON ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance to railway viaduct to coincide with railway possession, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horton Road, South Darenth, Sevenoaks, on or after 27th January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 10 metres either side of the railway duct and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Station Road, A225 Main Road, Cedar Drive, Devon Road, Holmesdale Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

GRAVENEY LEVEL CROSSING, GRAVENEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Graveney Level Crossing, Graveney, on or after 9 February 2013 as shown below.

Monkshill Road will be closed in the vicinity of Graveney Level Crossing.

The planned closure times are as follows

Saturday 9 February at 01:00 hrs to Monday 11 February 2013 at 05:00 hrs

Sunday 17 February at 01:30 hrs to Monday 18 February 2013 at 04:30 hrs

Sunday 24 March at 01:30 hrs to Monday 25 March 2013 at 04:30 hrs

The alternative route is via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road (Staple Street and Staple Street Road in reverse), A299 Thanet Way, (Dargate Off-slip in reverse) Highstreet Road and Monkshill Road.

MANNS PLACE (WRENS ROAD), BREDGAR (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting

through traffic on Manns Place (Wrens Road), Bredgar, on or after 6 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs each day.

The road will be closed to the north of the junction with Gore Road.

The alternative route is via Gore Road, Primrose Lane, Tunstall Toad, Bredgar Road and Hearts Delight Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

STAR LANE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Star Lane, Broadstairs, on or after 4 February 2013, as shown below.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, with some minimal overlap, as follows.

From 4 February 2013 for up to 3 months, Star Lane will be closed between the junctions with Manston Court Road and Nash Road.

The alternative route is via Manston Court Road, A256 Haine Road and Nash Road.

Night time closures of Nash Road are planned for 10 nights in early April, to be advised nearer the time. During these closures, the alternative route will be via Manston Court Road, Haine Road, Margate Road and Star Lane

From 15 April 2013 for up to 3 months, Star Lane will be closed between the junctions with Nash Road and A254 Margate Road.

The alternative route is via Nash Road, A256 Haine Road and A254 Margate Road

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

HAWDEN ROAD, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawden Road, Tonbridge, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 27.

The alternative route is via Houselands Road.

LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for a bridge inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lucks Hill, West Malling, on or after 22 January 2013 for up to 1 night between 05.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Swan Street, High Street, Town Hill, A20 London Road, Winterfield Lane, Lucks Hill.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

FOXHOLE LANE, HAWKHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for BT Openreach pole replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxhole Lane, Hawkhurst, on or after 5 February 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 4XQ

Dated 20th January 2013

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Maidstone Borough Council

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the freehold interest in approximately 115 sq. metres (137.5 sq. yards) of land at Bushy Grove, Kingswood.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ, where the plan may be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services at the above address, not later than 11 February 2013.

Steve Goulette
Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services
Dated 12 January 2013.



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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Upchurch River Valley Golf Club, Oak Lane, Upchurch**

Applicant: **William Barling**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whitman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



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or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Sport

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FOOTBALL

We've got our eye on you

Their presence is not always obvious but the police are keeping watch on you during the big match. **Greg Miles** spent a day with officers at Gills' top-of-the-table clash with Port Vale.

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

KENT is not a hot-spot for professional football clubs with large fan bases, but it's busy enough to keep one man and his fellow colleagues on their toes.

In the week, PC Geoff Greensmith is a police man – and at weekends and the odd Tuesday night he's no different, except that he combines his job with his favourite hobby: football.

As Kent's football liaison officer (FLO), he is tasked with making sure Gills fans, and the county's droves of non-league followers and their visiting counterparts, are safe to enjoy their passion.

It's all too easy to dismiss their presence as a show of force, as behind the scenes the risk of trouble is never far away and often nullified without anyone ever knowing, as I learnt at the Gillingham-Port Vale match last weekend.

"That was the liveliest home game this season so far because of the size of the crowd and the number of risk supporters in attendance," said PC Greensmith. "From a policing point of view, an away team winning is the best result. If they win they go home happy."

There were no arrests, but five fans were refused entry for being drunk, while one away supporter was ejected from the Brian Moore Stand (BMS) for repeatedly trying to enter the empty lower tier.

It's all about risk prevention and reacting to intelligence as far as the police are concerned. For instance, the 716 Vale fans were housed in the upper tier of the BMS as this season's records show they have a history of encroaching on to the pitch.

It's not just about Gillingham, as the law states a presence is needed at all Blue Square Premier games and above, meaning Ebbsfleet United and Dartford are on PC Greensmith's list.

Figures released towards the end of last year by the Home Office show the number of arrests at international and domestic matches in England and Wales last season has dropped by 24 per cent to 2,363. That's 726 fewer than the year before and works out at an average of less than one arrest per match.

Such figures come about through a lot of pre-match preparation by FLOs around the country – as you can imagine, a visit by Galatasaray to a club like Manchester United needs some home-



TOP FIVE TEAMS WITH FOOTBALL BANNING ORDERS...



Cardiff City
135



Chelsea
112



Man United
98



Leeds United
91



West Ham
78



... and Gills
2

27 people in Kent are the subject of Football Banning Orders relating to various teams.

Arrests and ejections at Gillingham, Ebbsfleet United and Dartford home and away ties:

2011/12

15 arrests and 41 ejections

2012/13

12 arrests and 23 ejections (as of 8/1/13)

work. But back in Kent, PC Greensmith keeps abreast of the situation in all manner of ways, through social-networking sites like Twitter (@kentpolicefooty), information from coach operators carrying fans to games, pubs and information reports documenting the behaviour of

each club's fans, kept on a nationwide database. Officers from other forces also often travel to help their counterparts identify away risk groups.

So next time you think about casting a sour glance at those in high-vis jackets, remember they've got your safety in mind.

A DAY ON THE BEAT

WITHOUT sounding like the hardcore veteran type, I've been to a few football matches in my time and become accustomed to the presence of police at grounds around the country. So to go behind the scenes for the Gills v Vale game put things in a new light for me.

The day started as all days should, with a cup of tea at Gillingham police station, followed by a briefing for the team on duty. This went through everything from the behaviour of both sets of fans throughout the season and who the trouble-makers are to how to spot the difference between fans by shirt colour – not everyone on the force is a football fan.

Spotters were deployed to vantage points throughout the town, while I headed off in a marked police car. The first port of call was to the town centre to check on the favoured drinking spots and the train station, where the majority of fans arrived. Continual checks were made on the coach park and down the main roads where opposing fans would first come into contact with each other.

Communication became key as a high number of risk fans (possible trouble-makers) from both sides was known to be in the area, in fact the highest number of the season for a Gills home game. Note is also made of a potential problem of away fans visiting the home supporters' pub to watch TV before kick-off.

Meanwhile, two coachloads of away supporters pitched up in Rochester. With their pre-match alcohol intake having started hours earlier, they were checked on and had an escort arranged to bring them into the town later.

With kick-off fast approaching and the escort safely in, albeit after getting stuck in traffic, attention switched to the stadium, where the only trouble recorded was a minor scuffle to conclude a busy day.



PASSION: Forster says it's a 24-hour job as boss

FOOTBALL

Forster not giving up at Dover after calls for him to quit

THE norovirus, chest infections, flu, injuries and poor performances have all played their part in what Nicky Forster is hoping won't be his undoing as Dover boss.

Five straight defeats before this weekend had fans in some quarters at the Crabble Ground calling for his head. It's all in stark contrast to a pre-Christmas run that saw them two points off the top spot after half-a-dozen wins on the bounce.

But his squad has been decimated in recent weeks and it's shown. The Whites have lost ground on Blue Square South leaders Salisbury after a series of disappointing displays and heavy defeats, including at Farnborough, where

they were 5-0 down at half-time before pulling two back in the second half.

"I understand the frustrations – I'm as frustrated as anyone. It affects my life as much it does anyone else's," said the former Gillingham striker.

"There's been a number of contributing factors. There have been some poor performances individually and collectively. We have been hit by a bout of illness.

"I would ask fans to stick with us. It wasn't long ago we were two points off the top two after winning six games on the bounce."

He said he was in regular contact with chairman Jim Parmenter but there was no talk

of relieving him of his duties, while he also quashed fans' perceptions that he doesn't care about his job.

"If the chairman wants to speak to me in that respect he knows where I am," he said. "I speak to the chairman two to three times a day, for lots of different things. He's frustrated like the rest of us, but I think he understands the predicament we're in."

"I think there's a misconception that I don't think about the job. It's a 24-hour job. I live and breathe it because you want to get it right."

Forster is hoping the majority of his squad will be back to playing fitness for Tuesday's clash at home to AFC Hornchurch.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Scally tackles debt and steps up search for new Gills home

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally has revealed to shareholders that the club is on a safer financial footing now it owes nothing to banks.

He also discussed the future of the Brian Moore Stand and the proposed move to a new home at Mill Hill, close to the club's training ground at Beechings Cross.

More than 100 shareholders attended an informal meeting at Priestfield before the 2-1 loss to Port Vale last weekend and heard how Scally has finished his financial restructuring of Gillingham FC Ltd (the company that owns the club) following years of debt. The club has had no liabilities to banks since June 2011, having previously owed £3.6 million.

The other good news is that the club owns the freehold of the stadium once again. It had been in the control of a separate company, Priestfield Developments Ltd, owned by Scally, who bought it in 2007 as part of the debt restructuring.

The protracted move to a new stadium was also high on the agenda. This year the club failed in its plans to move to the Chatham Docks redevelopment, where Scally had hoped the developer of the site, Peel Holdings, would set aside 10 acres for the club.

He has since secured an option to develop 40 acres at Mill Hill, just a few miles from the Gills' current home. It is a joint venture with a food retailer, with the next step being an application for a feasibility study to Medway Council.

The future of the Brian Moore Stand (BMS) is largely dependent on how long it may take to move to a new home. Plans are being drawn up to improve the existing stand, while architects are also looking at a new structure that would cost some £2.5m.

The BMS was built in 2004 as a replacement for the old terraced Town End. However, the club's temporary planning permission for the stand expired in May 2010. Medway Council, which looks after such applications, is hopeful a positive conclusion will be reached.

The council told KOS Media: "Since the temporary permission for the stand expired in May 2010, the council has met with the football club. We have also responded to clarifications sought by the club and have been clear that the temporary permission has lapsed and a new planning permission is required if the stand is to remain."



TALKS: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally has secured an option with a food retailer to develop Mill Hill

Student tickets and food vendor's deal

While talk of the new stadium, the club's finances and the Brian Moore Stand proved the highlights of the meeting, there were other points of interest for fans to note.

■ The club revealed it was looking to attract more of the 6,000 students based around Medway to home games, with possible discounted tickets for those with NUS cards.

■ Linley Catering, which runs the food and beverage stalls at Priestfield, has a new 10-year deal. It is working on employing more of its own staff rather than casual workers to improve relations.

■ The club's new online ticketing system is working well, compared with the old Ticketline phone set-up.

The council continued: "At present there is a breach of planning control, but they are not breaking the law unless, or until, the council serve an enforcement notice. No decision has been made as yet on serving such a notice as we are hopeful the club will respond positively."

Talk of the stand brought about the idea of safe standing areas at Priestfield. Nationally, a campaign has been under way for several years by the Safe Standing Campaign, backed by the Football Supporters Federation, for safe standing areas to return to English grounds, similar to models used in Germany. However, Scally rejected the idea, feeling that the majority of fans were now used to being seated.

With the Gills among the favourites for promotion from League Two, Scally was coy on season ticket prices should they go up, saying they would be reviewed once it was known what division they would be in and that if they were promoted they would probably be slightly higher.

Manager Martin Allen also made an appearance at the meeting and rejected talk that he would move away should clubs higher up the football league show an interest in his services.



This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

RON HILLYARD

DOB:

March 31, 1952

Gills stats:

657 appearances,
202 clean sheets

Clubs: Gillingham,
York (loan
Hartlepool, Bury
and Brighton)



THERE is no shortage of candidates for the spot between the sticks, but there's one we think comes out on top – Ron Hillyard.

Ronald William Hillyard was born in South Yorkshire and started his career with York City, making his debut as a teenager in 1969 in the midst of a goalkeeping crisis.

He spent five years making 61 league appearances at the club and failed to establish himself after loans away. However, he got his break in the summer of 1974 when Gillingham manager Len Ashurst lured him to Priestfield. He had previously failed to sign the keeper when Hillyard made 23 appearances on loan at his old club Hartlepool.

Hillyard joined Gillingham as they started their campaign in the Third Division, following promotion the year before. He was an ever-present that season and for three others, 77/78, 79/80 and 85/86.

The Gills came close to reaching new heights during his 17-year stay as they finished in the top eight five times between the 1981/82 and 1986/87 seasons. That final season they finished fifth, qualifying for the newly-formed play-offs, in which they lost to rivals Swindon Town in the final after overcoming Sunderland.

Sadly, a back injury forced Hillyard to retire in 1991 when just eight matches short of fellow keeper John Simpson's league-appearance record of 571. By then he had already spent a year as assistant manager to Damien Richardson before the pair were sacked in 1992.

He has since worked as a goalkeeping coach at Priestfield and Ebbsfleet United.

■ So, do you agree?

Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email greg.miles@archant.co.uk or write to Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SR

Team sheet

- 1) Ron Hillyard
- 2) ???????
- 3) ???????
- 4) ???????
- 5) ???????
- 6) ???????
- 7) ???????
- 8) ???????
- 9) ???????
- 10) ???????
- 11) ???????

SNOOKER

Hawkins devastated at early Masters exit

BARRY Hawkins admits he was gutted to have blown his chance of an upset over world number two Judd Trump at the Masters this week.

Hawkins, from Ditton, lost 6-5 to Trump at Alexandra Palace on Tuesday in the first-round match. Hawkins was 2-1 ahead before Trump brought it back to 2-2. The 33-year-old then won three in a row and was one away from victory before missing two crucial chances to win. Trump returned to the table to claim victory.

"I never got a chance in the final frame, but I'm devastated as I've just handed it to him," he said. "I played well, but I can't take any positives at the moment. My head is spinning and I'm a bit gutted."

CRICKET

All-rounders ready for Bangladesh T20 bash

KENT duo Darren Stevens and Azhar Mahmood have begun their cricketing season a few months early in the Bangladesh Premier League.

The pair were both bought at the player auction before Christmas to appear at the Twenty20 competition, which started on Friday night and finishes on February 19.

Stevens will be looking to defend the title he won last year with the Dhaka Gladiators, who paid \$30,000 for his services this time around. Mahmood fetched the higher price of \$150,000 for the Barisal Burners.

Kent have an option to re-sign Mahmood should he decide to return to England to play T20 cricket in the summer.

FOOTBALL

Vahid bows out after recurrence of injury

PROLIFIC non-league marksman Stuart Vahid has been forced to retire from football because of a degenerative knee injury.

Vahid has regularly found the net in the Ryman One South, latterly with Whitstable Town, who he has played for since 2009, while also spending a season at neighbours Ramsgate in between. In that time he has scored 44 goals in 130 games at the Belmont Ground.

The Oystermen have also lost recently-signed James Brown, who has jetted off to the US for a two-year football scholarship with Kansas.

However, there are no fewer than seven new faces to arrive as Nicky Southall prepares for a relegation battle.

**THE EASY
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO 2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO 2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

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